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THE TIMES

No. 65,188 SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

Air chief told: quit now or face an inquiry



Rifkind: failed to make statement to Commons

**BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT**

AIR Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, the senior RAF commander forced to resign over the £387,000 spent on renovating his official residence, was given an ultimatum to leave the service or face suspension and an inquiry that could have lasted 18 months.

Last night, as Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, was criticised by MPs for failing to make a statement in person to the Commons, the treatment of Sir Sandy was

described by some defence sources as "equivalent to blackmail".

Sir Sandy, 53, who announced yesterday that he was to take early retirement, is understood to have been given the ultimatum in a meeting with Mr Rifkind. According to defence sources, he faced two choices: to resign on a pension or be suspended from his job as commander-in-chief of RAF Personnel and Training Command and face an inquiry into his involvement in the Haymes Garth affair. The sources said that Sir Sandy

and his wife, Mary, had already faced a year of pressure and innuendo and were both suffering from ill health. They said Sir Sandy could not face another 18 months of the same treatment, even if he were to be exonerated at the end of the inquiry.

He told Mr Rifkind he would resign. Yesterday, although there was no mention of the ultimatum in his resignation letter, Sir Sandy's statement hinted at the strain he and his wife have faced. He said: "I have served the RAF loyally for 35 years and it is

with great regret that I have indicated to the Chief of the Air Staff my intention to take early retirement. I have taken this step in the hope that it will relieve pressure on my Service and my family."

Mr Rifkind was in Scotland when Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, presented a written Commons answer detailing the findings of the independent report by Sheila Masters, of KPMG Peat Marwick into the Haymes Garth overspend. However, he issued a statement through the MoD, in

which he said Sir Sandy had had a "distinguished career in which he has given his country much valuable service".

The failure by Mr Rifkind to make a personal statement to the Commons was branded a "disgrace" by one MP. John Wilkinson, Tory MP for Ruislip and Northwood and a former RAF officer who once trained with Sir Sandy, said: "The Secretary of State should fulfil his responsibility to Parliament about his role in the loss to the nation of one of the RAF's most respected and capable commanders. He has

a brilliant record of distinguished service and this is the kind of loss that the Service and the country cannot afford. I believe that he has been made a scapegoat."

Mr Wilkinson claimed Sir Sandy had been the victim of "trial by innuendo and leaks to the press". Last night the MoD denied that claim and said that he had resigned voluntarily.

Sir Sandy will continue in



Wilson: told to resign or face suspension

Continued on page 2, col 6

Errors of judgment, page 6
Simon Jenkins, page 16

Judge attacks mandatory sentences

Two soldiers get life for Ulster killing

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE in Belfast called for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder yesterday as he jailed two Scots Guardsmen for killing a teenager in the city.

The two men had been part of a four-man patrol and the victim, Peter McBride, 18, had run away when challenged by another of the soldiers in the group in September 1992.

Lord Justice Kelly made his comments as he jailed Mark Wright, 21, from Arbroath, and James Fisher, 28, from Ayrshire. He said that the mandatory sentence was artificial and he called on Parliament to consider a new crime of culpable homicide to cover murder and manslaughter.



Peter McBride: shot as he ran from patrol

fire after he heard a shot, which he thought had been fired by the teenager.

Relatives of the victim, who died in the republican New Lodge area of Belfast, applauded as Lord Justice Kelly sentenced the two soldiers. Some stood in the public gallery and shouted abuse as the men were led from the dock and some had to be escorted from the building after clashes with police outside the court.

The sentencing followed the recent furore over the unsuccessful appeal by Private Lee Clegg, of the Parachute Regiment, who is also serving life for murder.

The Scots Guardsmen claimed that McBride was carrying a plastic bag that contained a coffee jar bomb. He was stopped for questioning by a Lance Sergeant.

Wright and Fisher said at their trial that they chased McBride after he ran away from the sergeant. Fisher said he felt threatened because he thought McBride was trying to set a trap by running to a car. Wright said he opened

of Clegg's appeal to the House of Lords to have his conviction reduced to manslaughter. He told the court yesterday: "Their lordships argued that question in the negative. Even if they had argued in the affirmative, I doubt if a verdict of manslaughter would have fitted my findings in this case."

The judge said, however, that Parliament might like to examine the law of homicide. He said: "Parliament in a broader examination of the law of homicide, as it may affect all persons, might consider the substitution of a single crime of culpable homicide for the present categories of manslaughter and murder, and the abolition of the mandatory life sentence with all its artificiality."

The parents of Peter McBride last night welcomed the sentences. Jean McBride, the victim's mother, said: "I hope this is not going to be a Clegg affair now that the judgment is over. They murdered my child. Their family is crying, but they can see their sons next week. I go to a graveyard, and I don't see mine."

The judge's comments about the law of homicide echo the concerns of a considerable pressure group. Lawyers believe the category could apply to those in uniform who, while carrying out their duty, kill neither in self-defence nor to make an arrest, and in a manner that is not premeditated.

Some campaigners have argued that such a charge could also relate to killing where, in the course of duty, excessive force has been used to make an arrest or in self-defence. At present both situations lead to a murder charge and, on conviction, a mandatory life sentence. The new category would give judges the discretion to set a suitable sentence, as they do in cases of manslaughter, where in the case of murder it is the Home Secretary who determines the time spent in jail.



Owen Oyston leaves Altrincham police station yesterday. He said the night he spent in police custody was "brilliant, better than the Hilton"

OWEN OYSTON, the millionaire publisher and owner of Blackpool Football club, was charged with eight sex offences yesterday, including four counts of rape, and given conditional bail (Kate Alderson writes).

Mr Oyston, 60, appeared at a hearing at Trafford magistrates in Manchester, almost 36 hours after he was arrested on Thursday morning. Mr

Owen Oyston on rape charges

Oyston, who is married with five children, is charged with four rapes, three indecent assaults and conspiring to procure girls under the age of 21 to have sexual intercourse.

The court heard that the four rapes are alleged to have taken place between April 1988 and December 1992. Two of

the incidents are said to have taken place at Cloughton Hall, Mr Oyston's home, and another in London. No location was given for the fourth count. The three indecent assaults are alleged to have taken place between September 1989 and December 1991. Mr Oyston is also charged

with conspiring with Charles Martin, the former owner of a model agency in Manchester, to procure girls under the age of 21 to have sexual intercourse in any part of the world with a third party.

John Lord, prosecuting, applied for a remand on conditional bail which was

agreed to by Anthony Scriven, QC, defending.

After the hearing Mr Oyston was taken to Altrincham police station and emerged last night to declare his innocence. He told reporters that the night he had spent in police custody was "brilliant".

"It was better than the Hilton," he said. "I just don't want to have to repeat it."

Major strives in vain to quell Cabinet feuding

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR was last night fighting an increasingly forlorn battle to hold his Government together after Cabinet divisions over a single currency erupted into open warfare.

The Prime Minister said that Kenneth Clarke's speech on Thursday night, in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer extolled the potential benefits of economic and monetary union, was in line with his thinking. He denied that ministers were divided over the issue.

for the Government if Mr Clarke did not look so far ahead.

In another sign of the air of crisis enveloping the Conservative high command, Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman, warned Mr Major that ministers were after his job. In remarks apparently referring to Mr Clarke and Michael He-

celine, the President of the Board of Trade and the Cabinet's other European standard-bearer, Lord Tebbit said: "I just have to say to John Major, 'Just watch it'. There are people in the Cabinet who ... would still like the Prime Minister's job."

Lord Tebbit, a hardline Euro-sceptic, compared alleged differences between the Prime Minister and his Chan-

cellor over a single currency with the corrosive feud between Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson, her Chancellor, over the Exchange-Rate Mechanism that eventually precipitated her downfall.

Mr Clarke dismissed his intervention as mischief-making, saying that he and the Prime Minister had worked together on the speech. "Norman has a habit of trying to make people's blood run cold," he said.

The Chancellor insisted in interviews yesterday that he was simply trying to engineer a "serious and intelligent" debate about monetary union and keep options open while working with fellow Europeans on the practicalities.

As the Prime Minister embarked on a tour of Oxfordshire, the most alarming development was the crumbling of Cabinet discipline over the issue, which threatens to tear the Tories apart before the election. Mr Portillo, in an interview which he reportedly

Continued on page 2, col 4

Dresden protest against British

£276m victory for Maxwell pensioners

BY ROBERT MILLER

An anti-British demonstration will be staged by neo-Nazis in Dresden today to mark the 50th anniversary of the decision to raze the German city.

Despite a comprehensive ban on protests by the city authorities, the so-called Federation for a United Germany used computer mailboxes to mobilise sympathisers. At the official ceremonies on Monday, the principal British representative will be the Duke of Kent.

PENSIONERS faced with ruin after Robert Maxwell plundered their pension funds learnt last night that a £276 million deal had been agreed to restore their financial security. Mirror Group Newspapers said the deal when approved by the courts could release more than £100 million MGN set aside to cover lost pension funds.

More than three years after

the tycoon's body was found floating in the Atlantic, the trustees of his company pension funds announced that a group of City institutions had agreed to settle claims. The deal ended years of mental turmoil for 32,000 people who had worked for Maxwell companies and had learnt after his death that he had stolen about £440 million in pensions cash.

Ken Trench, chairman of the Maxwell Pensioners' Ac-

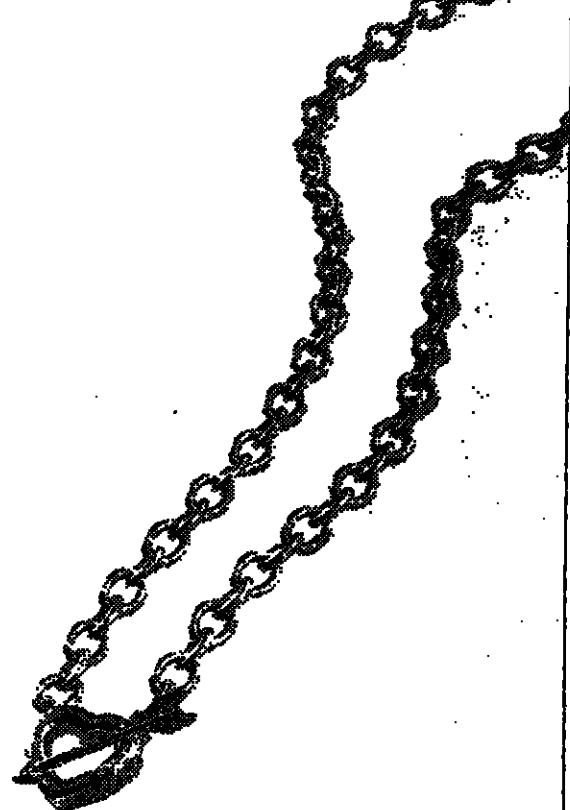
tion Group, representing 20,000 Maxwell pensioners, said: "Obviously this is tremendous news. These people can get on with living their lives. This [affair] has spoilt what should be a secure, pleasant retirement for many and made it into a nightmare. But that nightmare is over."

He had spoken to a number of pensioners who were in "Cloud-cuckoo-land" after hearing they were to receive all their pension, he said. "It is

a bit like winning the lottery." The deal further secures the future for Maxwell pensioners, but still falls short of making up the £400 million worth of funds stolen from the pension schemes.

The trustees of the four schemes involved in yesterday's settlement were quick to point out that they would still be pursuing other parties who had business dealing with Maxwell companies and pension funds.

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Jailed guardsmen 'thought shot teenager had coffee jar bomb'

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MARK WRIGHT, James Fisher and two other Scots Guardsmen had embarked on a routine Army patrol through the republican New Lodge estate in north Belfast on the morning of September 4, 1992. A month earlier the IRA had shot dead a soldier in the area, and the guardsmen would have been conscious of the danger.

Yesterday Wright, 21, from Arbroath, and Fisher, 28, from Ayrshire, were convicted at Belfast Crown Court of murdering Peter McBride, 18, who was shot as he ran away from their patrol. At 10.25am on the day of the shooting a lance sergeant in the patrol stopped Mr McBride for questioning. He had a record of petty crime but no convictions for paramilitary offences.

Wright claimed at his trial last year that the patrol took up defensive positions on a street corner as his sergeant stopped Mr McBride. The guardsman said that the teenager seemed to be startled and appeared to be holding something under the jacket, which he thought was a coffee jar bomb.

Wright said: "He had a white plastic bag rolled up in a cylinder in his hand. My initial thought was it was a Mark 15 coffee jar bomb because of the way he was holding it and the way we had been consistently briefed on the threat of a Mark 15." The guardsman said that after Mr McBride was questioned he ripped the sergeant's car piece from his head and jumped over a fence into a garden. As Mr McBride ran down the street the sergeant shouted "grab him", and Wright and Fisher gave chase.

Wright said he heard his colleague shout two or three times: "Army, stop or I will fire." Wright then claimed that he cocked his weapon. "I ran down the street with my head down, then I heard a round being fired. I dropped to one knee and fired two aimed shots at the youth. It looked to me as if he had turned and fired because of the side-on view I had of him." However, the guardsman admitted that he had not seen a gun or anything resembling one.

After opening fire, Wright claimed that he heard another two shots almost simultaneously, and Mr McBride appeared to crumple to the ground. At this point he saw Fisher standing with his rifle at his shoulder. He later saw the teenager sitting in an alleyway. "Then the youth fell over on to his back and I thought we had hit him," Wright told the court.

Fisher told the court that he pursued the teenager and opened fire because he believed Mr McBride was armed with a bomb and because he feared he was being led into a trap. He said he fired a further two shots at Mr McBride because he still consid-

Two get life, page 1

Britain must compete in 'savage world'

Economist defends wealth gap as price of survival

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

EFFORTS to reverse Britain's widening gap between rich and poor could bring economic disaster, a leading economist warned yesterday.

Patrick Minford, Professor of Economics at Liverpool University and one of the group of economists that advises the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said the Joseph Rowntree Foundation inquiry into income and wealth had failed to take account of the "savage world" in which Britain had to compete.

The year-long inquiry, whose members included Howard Davies, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said the gap between rich and poor was wider than at any time since the Second World War and that millions of people were being denied a stake in the country's future. The report said that between 1979 and 1992, the real incomes of the richest 10 per cent rose by

55 per cent while the incomes of the poorest 10 per cent stayed the same. It said urgent measures had to be taken to correct the imbalance which would otherwise threaten social cohesion and the country's economic prospects.

Professor Minford said: "The facts are not in dispute. However, over the past 20 years in the United States the bottom 10 per cent of the population have had a cut in their real living standards of 20 per cent. What is remarkable is that we have managed to avoid that."

"The conclusions of the Rowntree inquiry are extraordinary. They want to go back to a redistributive welfare system. There is a very sharp trade-off between a free market system where wages find their own level and you get wage inequality, and a redistributive system accompanied by huge unemployment."

What we need, and have successfully provided, is a safety net welfare system, not a redistributive system, to counter absolute poverty. We have benefits linked to prices which give people some kind of guarantee.

"That is already quite an ambitious floor, given the fall in the real incomes of the poorest in the United States. The inquiry has not properly taken account of the savage world we're in."

Howard Davies, who served on the inquiry in a personal capacity, said in a newspaper article yesterday that there were dangers for the economy and for business in a continued widening of income distribution. "Such a trend cannot fail to present a threat to social cohesion. A growing number of people have become detached from the market economy, unable to make a contribution to wealth creation."

"That represents a significant waste of resources and increases other social costs in the health service and the criminal justice system as well as the social security budget. Growing income inequality may therefore be a competitive handicap."

Digby Anderson, director of the Social Affairs Unit, said that the rich and poor were better described as the reasonably affluent and the extremely affluent. David Green, director of health and welfare at the Institute of Economic Affairs, said: "It doesn't matter about the gap between rich and poor so long as the bottom of the income range is not too low. I don't think it is. The main message of the report is: it pays to work."

Leading article, page 17



Minford: says report drew wrong conclusion



John Major at a youth project in Oxford yesterday

Major fails to quell Cabinet feuding

Continued from page 1
volunteered to the BBC, suggested that it was Mr Clarke, rather than the Euro-sceptics, who were out of step with the Prime Minister, who many believe has become more wary of Brussels.

The Employment Secretary, who said last year that scrapping the pound "would mean giving up the government of the UK", also challenged Mr Clarke's suggestion that monetary union was primarily an economic judgment. "I would reiterate what the Prime Minister said on Tuesday," he said. "It is a constitutional issue."

The spectacle of the leaders of the rival Tory camps openly confronting each other provoked venomous interventions by their backbench supporters.

As the nine whipless Tories added their names to a broadly Euro-sceptic Commons motion on a single currency, taking the total to 107, Teresa Gorman, one of their number, said that Mr Clarke was "telling porkies when he said that a single currency did not mean a federal Europe". The Chancellor should fall into line and "button his lip" if he

wanted to remain part of the Cabinet, she said.

The pro-European wing of the party regarded Mr Clarke's speech as a source of jubilation, however, with many Tories saying they were delighted that the Chancellor was not afraid to raise the European standard. Peter Temple-Morris, a leading figure on the centre-left and a close supporter of Mr Heseltine, launched an attack on Mr Portillo. "I am amazed that a junior Cabinet minister should deliberately raise this issue at a time when the Cabinet and the party have to stick together."

As the argument raged yesterday, it was clear that the Right and Left were seeking to make the Prime Minister their prisoner.

Downing Street officials said that while the Chancellor was focusing on the economic arguments, the Prime Minister had to look at the broader picture.

Denying a rift with his Chancellor, Mr Major said: "I think you should examine what the Chancellor said last night. He made it clear we are a long way away from the right economics for a single currency."

Air chief told to quit or be suspended

Continued from page 1
his present post until the end of April and will leave the RAF in July. He will receive no special financial compensation or redundancy. According to official figures, he will leave on a pension of about £44,000 a year and a one-off lump sum of three times that amount (£132,000) as an advance on his pension rights.

After making available a summary of the Masters report to MPs and publishing details of an internal audit of other official Service residences, Mr Soames announced that Haymes Garth was to be put for sale.

Haymes Garth, the 12-room house in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, which has been at the centre of an unprecedented controversy after £387,000 was spent on refurbishment, will be replaced by more "suitable" alternative accommodation.

Sir Sandy was neither at his headquarters at RAF Tunworth in Gloucestershire nor at his official home in Cheltenham. Defence sources said he was staying with friends over the weekend and would be back at work on Monday.

Mr Soames said the Masters report had called into question the judgment of a number of individuals which might "require action by the appropriate authorities".

A number of Defence sources said no decision had been taken but the others involved, a number of senior RAF officers and civil servants, may face disciplinary action. However, Mr Soames said: "There are no findings of illegality or culpable impropriety, but failures of control imply individual failures in management and responsibility."

The Masters report which was not given to the MPs in full because the MoD said it was a confidential inquiry, said the controls over spending at Haymes Garth were "poor" and numerous variations were agreed to the original plan, "with the result that there was a significant overspend".

Mr Soames said that the audit of the other residences showed that the management of a majority of them was satisfactory but there were significant failures of control in a minority of cases, mostly in RAF commands.

The internal audit highlighted weaknesses in control of spending at the official home of the commander-in-chief RAF Strike Command in High Wycombe. Sir Sandy's former official house at Rhindahlen in Germany when he was commander-in-chief RAF Germany 1991-1993, was also examined. The internal audit showed that a total of £302,000 was spent on the property between 1991 and 1993.

Errors of judgment, page 6
Simon Jenkins, page 16

Teachers threaten to strike on budget cuts

Schools could face a national teachers' strike if budget cuts lead to widespread redundancies and increased class sizes, Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday. He said children could be sent home on a rota basis where classes were considered too large to teach or the union might opt for local strikes.

The six teaching unions will meet next week to discuss a concerted campaign but none is likely to follow the NASUWT's hard line before the Easter round of conferences. Opposition to cuts in schools is likely to increase tomorrow when governors, parents and teachers from all over the country gather for a protest meeting.

Mackay rejects merger

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, told magistrates last night that he would not force mergers between court areas as part of the current reform of the magistrates' courts service. But he warned that a "substantial reduction" in the present numbers would be needed. He told the Worcestershire Magistrates' Association that he remained "fundamentally committed" to the local management of courts.

Meningitis outbreak

A four-year-old girl has died and two other children are in hospital after an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis in Cleveland. The girl died on Thursday after being admitted to South Cleveland Hospital, Middlesbrough, earlier this week. The two other children, aged seven and eight months, are said to be improving at the same hospital. Doctors believe that two of the cases are linked.

Former judge jailed

A former judge who fraudulently obtained thousands of pounds in fees was jailed for six months yesterday. Over 16 months, Ernest Aragon, 68, of New Malden, Surrey, made bogus claims of more than £10,500 for 600 unprocessed immigration appeal cases. The former Kenyan High Court judge had denied four counts of obtaining property by deception and claimed he intended to complete the work.

Pools payouts at bookies

Pools winners could soon be able to collect prize money from betting shops, the Government announced yesterday. Nicholas Baker, a junior Home Office minister, told the Commons: "We have considered the representations from the pools promoters and the bookmakers to allow betting shops to pay out pools winnings. This would be in line with the bookmakers' normal business activity."

Pleasence cremated



Alan Bates, left, and Harold Pinter were among celebrities and friends at a service at Putney Vale Crematorium, southwest London, yesterday for Donald Pleasence, who died last week, aged 75, at his home near Nice. Flowers included a bouquet of yellow chrysanthemums in the shape of a champagne glass, with a card that read: "Daddy. See you in the bar!"

Travel chief jailed

The head of a travel company that collapsed leaving 40,000 holidaymakers stranded and owing £12 million has been jailed for nine months for fraud. Valerie Tjolle, 50, of Frome, Somerset, chairman of Land Travel, of Bath, which specialised in cut-price coach tours, admitted two charges of fraudulent trading during the summer of 1992. The Trade Department is continuing an inquiry into the collapse.

Faxed to freedom

A prisoner has escaped from Norwich jail after an accomplice faxed forged bail documents to his governors. Warders thought the court bail papers were genuine and let David Aves, 36, of Elmwell, Suffolk, walk free. Details of his escape emerged yesterday, two days after police officers saw him driving near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

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Police check for escaped psychiatric patients after grandmother is attacked on country lane walk

Farmer's wife has her throat cut in motiveless murder

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FARMER'S wife was the victim of a motiveless killer who cut her throat as she walked in a quiet country lane less than 400 yards from where her husband and son were working in the fields, police said yesterday.

Margaret Wilson, 66, was attacked as she walked towards her home on the York-

shire Wolds. Her husband Edwin and son Alan were working in nearby fields unaware of the attack by a man who stopped in a car, grabbed Mrs Wilson, slashed her throat and drove off.

Police are checking psychiatric hospitals for reports of escaped patients. They also launched an extensive com-

puter search for the killer's white Montego estate car.

The attack happened on a lane linking the agricultural hamlets of Burton Fleming and Rudston in north Humberside on Thursday. David Southwell, a parish councillor said: "It's terrible. The reaction has been to lock all doors and windows. Everyone is upset."

Rosalea Wells, clerk to Burton Fleming parish council and Mrs Wilson's neighbour, said: "We are so shocked. Margaret was such a nice person. The whole village is in shock. It is normally such a quiet little place. No one had heard of Burton Fleming until this tragedy happened."

The nearest police station is ten miles away. The last time there was any crime here in living memory was when the local post office was raided last autumn.

"I walk a lot myself. I went for a walk yesterday. It was purely fate I took a different road to Margaret otherwise it could have been me."

Detective Superintendent Tony Corrigan, who is leading the investigation, said: "It was a particularly savage and motiveless murder of a quiet, unassuming, pleasant old



Police searching the murder scene. The killer, who was driving a white Montego, pulled up to his victim, slashed her throat and drove off



Margaret Wilson: died yards from husband and son

BURTON FLEMING

lady who enjoyed walking in the countryside. A motive cannot be understood. It is quite possible this person could strike again." Police are not sure if the killer was alone in the car.

Mr Corrigan said that Mrs Wilson had been dropped off by her daughter Heather to walk the two miles to her home in Burton Fleming. As she walked alone she passed two farm workers in a field.

Mr Corrigan said: "They saw a vehicle drive past her, stop, and a man get out and jog towards her. They saw a struggle taking place. She and the man fell to the ground out of sight. Then they saw the man get up, jog off and drive away towards Rudston."

The men jumped on a tractor and drove to the road

where they found Mrs Wilson collapsed. A passing doctor and nurse confirmed that she was already dead. The two men then alerted her husband and son.

Her attacker is described as 6ft, white, with dark hair and an athletic build.

Heather Wilson, 39, said last night: "I didn't like her going out for walks on her own. Although this was her own territory — the area where she had lived and we as children were brought up — I

had warned her not long ago that she could be attacked." She said that her mother replied: "What would anybody want with an old lady like me?"

Miss Wilson said that her mother had walked the country road hundreds of times and was close to a farm where she had lived. She said that her mother had lived for her family: "She asked for nothing in return. I think the crazy person who did this will do it again. My mother got killed

because she just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Mrs Wilson was a popular figure in Burton Fleming. She and her husband had recently handed control of their farm to their son Alan, but still helped out.

Mrs Wilson assisted at the Darby and Joan Club and was active in the Methodist church. She and her twin sister, Elsie, were married to identical twins. She had four children, seven grandchildren

and one great-grandchild, Kathleen Raven, 50, the mother-in-law of Alan Wilson, heard of her death from her grand-daughter, Tracy, 22. "I thought she was acting daft then she told me her nan had been murdered and I just couldn't believe it."

Mrs Raven said she last saw Mrs Wilson, a close neighbour, that morning when she delivered her paper. "She was laughing and joking and stayed for about 15 minutes. She was a wonderful woman who had no enemies. We were great friends and she would do anything for me."

"I don't know what kind of person could have done this to her. It can't be someone from around here because everyone knew what a wonderful woman she was."

Hit man boasted about shooting victim in street

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DONALD URQUHART, the millionaire businessman shot on a London street by a contract killer, was murdered for £20,000 on the orders of a business associate, police believe.

They suspect that Mr Urquhart was on the trail of a well-connected man whom he suspected had defrauded him in a deal worth millions of pounds. Yesterday, as the last of the gang involved in his murder was jailed at the Old Bailey, details were released of an unprecedented investigation into an underworld hit team. Until now a court order has prevented publication.

Last autumn Graeme West, a bankrupt roofer and "enforcer", was jailed for life for the shooting. Yesterday Geoffrey Heath, 36, from Malbury, South Yorkshire, who worked for West, admitted conspiracy to murder. After West, 33, from Thornton Heath, south London, was sentenced the judge banned any press reports of the case until Heath was dealt with.

Mr Urquhart was shot three times by a motorcyclist as he walked to dinner from his flat in Marylebone, west London, with Pat Iamspithone, his Thai girlfriend, in January 1993. Hours later his murderer could still not contain his exhilaration. Celebrating in a bar, West gleefully kept pinching a friend's arm and shouting: "I done it. I done it." He had finally climbed the ladder of south London's underworld from club bouncer, debt collecting and "clumping" —



West: exhilarated



Heath: reluctant

punishing people who failed to pay their bills — to contract killing.

West could not stop boasting about his deed. As officers began investigations they were given a breakthrough. The man West had paid to buy the motorcycle for him was a police informer. When he discovered what the motorcycle had been used for he talked to his police handler. Police

began surveillance operations and tried to get an undercover officer into the group around West. He became cagey but a second breakthrough came when police arrested Andrew Karn, a former soldier and friend of West's. Under pressure he began talking and agreed to give evidence against West.

Police suspect that at least three men who have never been brought to court were involved in the killing, including a wealthy business associate of Mr Urquhart's who ordered the murder. A middle man in north London took up the contract and passed it on to a contact in south London. Each man may have taken a commission for helping to set up the attack.

Detectives believe that if West had not been caught he could have carried out another killing. They suspect there were plans for West to kill Mr Urquhart's brother if he took over the dead man's business.

Mr Urquhart was an unconventional businessman from gypsy stock who often worked from the back of his stretch limousine. He started work as a hod carrier, then was a used-car dealer before launching into property deals which included Elstree Golf Club.

Yesterday, after Heath's conviction, Karn admitted firearms offences, wounding, armed robbery and assault. Judge Denison sentenced him to two years' imprisonment but Karn was immediately released because of the time he has been held. The judge said that if he had not had the courage to give evidence West would not have been convicted.

During West's trial the court was told that West cut up the revolver he used and burnt his clothing on Karn's patio. Police say Karn will be helped to create a new life under witness protection schemes.

Yesterday Ronald Thwaites, QC, for the defence, said Heath had been a "reluctant accomplice" and had wanted to leave the plot well before the murder. He tried to repay the £20,000 but had spent part of it and the rest was frozen as he had been made bankrupt.



Urquhart with Iamspithone, who saw the shooting

Damages for prison haircut

By A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN on remand who claimed that a prison haircut made him look like a convict and would jeopardise his reputation in court has successfully sued the jail.

Mark Barnsley was awarded damages by a judge who agreed that he had been given a shaven head against his wishes at the privately run jail in Doncaster. Mr Barnsley took action through the county court after a request for a trim to his hair and beard left him short and

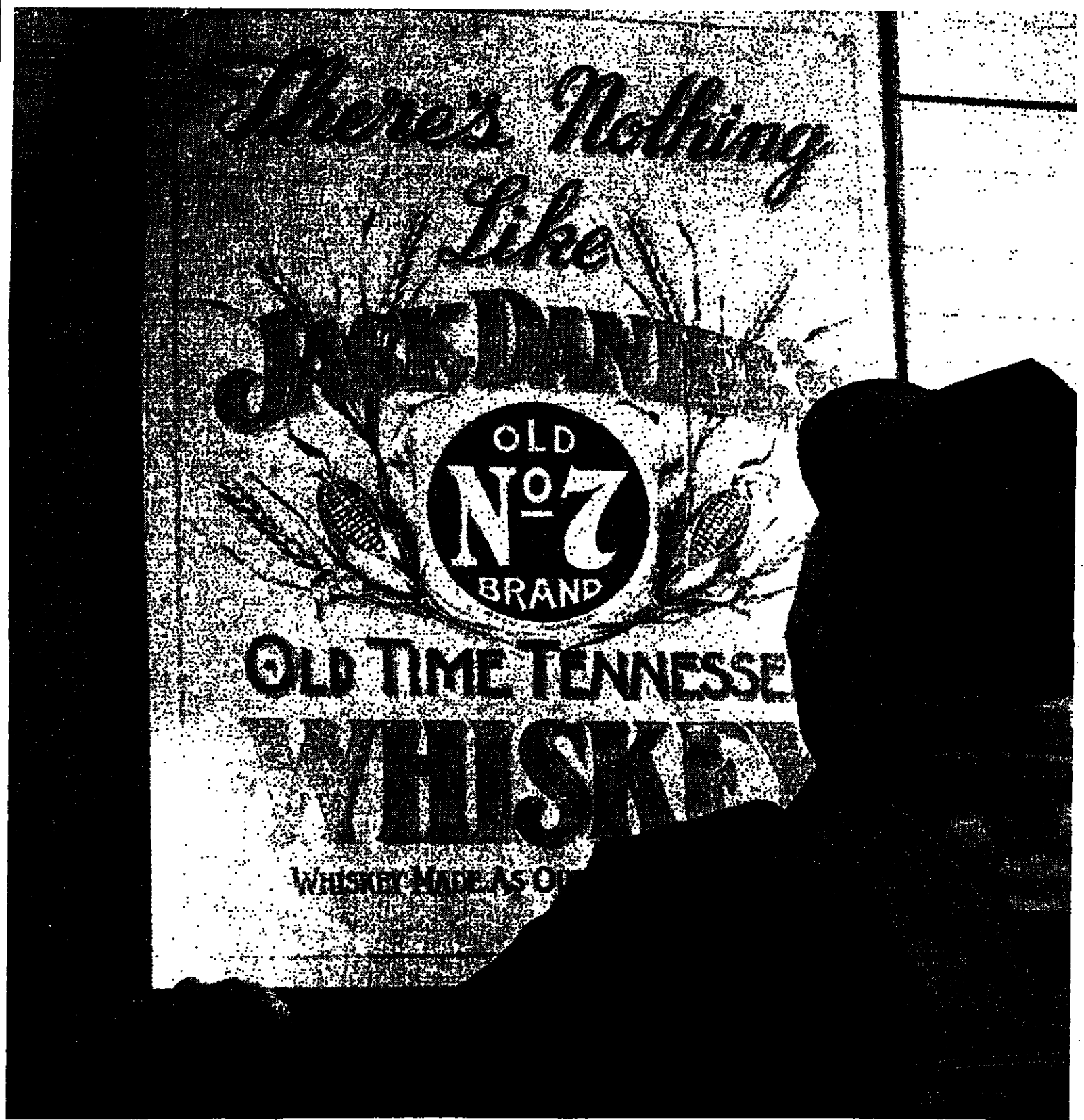
earned him the nickname "Baldman of Doncatraz". He said that the haircut made him look like a criminal. "It would have been very detrimental to my image. My hair took several months to grow back. Not only was I subjected to taunts from inmates but it was upsetting for my children when they saw me."

Judge Stocken held the hearing at the £90 million prison which opened last year. It stands on the site of an old power station between

the river Don and a canal and has been dubbed "Doncatraz" by locals.

The judge ruled against Premier Prison Services, the American-owned company which runs the prison, and set damages at £100. Mr Barnsley had sought £1,000. She ordered that the company pay his costs.

Mr Barnsley, 33, of Netherthorpe, Sheffield, is on remand charged with wounding students at a pub in Sheffield last July.



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AMAYSIN

AMAYSIN

Thirty arrested as veal protesters clash with police

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THIRTY people were arrested yesterday when more than 1,500 demonstrators blocked the road to Brightlingsea docks as the Essex port received its first consignment of veal calves during the four-week animal rights dispute.

The 350 police took two hours to force a half-mile passage through the crowd for six lorries carrying 120 calves and 2,400 sheep for export. The animals were loaded on to the Scandinavian transporter *MV Caroline* but were expected to remain on board for 48 hours after the authorities in Belgium, where the ship was due to sail, refused to accept them over the weekend.

Several people were treated for crush injuries as police cleared the narrow street to the docks. One woman was taken to hospital after an asthma attack and a man was treated for a head injury. An

RSPCA inspector examined the animals, many of which appeared distressed after their journey, which began earlier this week in Ireland. Women and children wept during the controversial operation which is costing police up to £40,000 a day.

Protesters staged a sit-in up to 100 yards deep and blocked the road with half a dozen lorries. After the consignment reached the docks an attempt was made to charge the heavy police lines at the gates but this was quickly repulsed.

Police, who had mud thrown at them when the consignment arrived in the town centre, were criticised for "heavy-handed" tactics. Their approach was to step over two ranks of sitting demonstrators at a time, lifting or pushing them back to officers waiting behind in a second

rank. Some people were crushed beside parked cars as police made their tortuous progress through the crowd. After allowing demonstrators a ten-minute sit-down protest, police forced them back to allow the lorries, supported by a dozen vehicles with wind-shield screens, to inch forward.

The protesters made a human chain across the entrance to the docks, linking themselves with chains to a telegraph pole at one end and a road sign at the other. Police broke the chains with bolt-cutters. Cars blocking the road were bumped aside or towed away.

Maria Wilby, spokeswoman for BALE, the local protest group, said: "The police have gone right back to heavy-handed tactics. They just ploughed through regardless, and that was after they



More than 1,500 people sat down to block the road to Brightlingsea. Police took two hours to clear the way

stopped people entering Brightlingsea to join the demonstration. Now they have got calves through for the first time, they will get them through every time."

Before the operation, police chiefs received a fax from colleagues in Nieuwpoort, near Ostend, informing them

that the mayor of the Belgian port, where sympathy is growing for the Brightlingsea animal rights movement, would not allow the animals to be docked until Monday. Police informed Roger Mills, the Suffolk haulier organising the exports, but he insisted on going ahead. He was not

available for comment. Ric Morgan, Mayor of Brightlingsea, protested against live animal exports through the town as reckless and damaging to local commerce.

In Shoreham, West Sussex, about 300 demonstrators clashed with police yesterday in a failed attempt to stop six

lorries carrying calves and sheep from entering the port. The animals later left on a boat bound for Dieppe.

The port authority was forced to resume livestock shipments a week ago after a High Court ruling.

Credo, page 9

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

Win a Valentine's Day dinner for two in Paris and, in *Times Sport*, win a trip for two to the Irish Grand National, on Monday

How to take a friend to a concert for 20p, on Tuesday



The power of style and how to use it, in *Fashion* on Wednesday

The politically correct *Jungle Book*, and other new films, on Thursday

Bernard Levin, Valerie Grove and Caitlin Moran, on Friday

Discount scheme launched by Tesco

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

TESCO yesterday announced the launch of a discount card scheme in an attempt to increase its share of sales among the supermarket giants.

The Tesco Clubcard goes nationwide on Monday after a successful trial at 14 stores over the past year. Clubcard customers will be able to accumulate points based on the amount they spend, which are then converted into money-off vouchers. Customers will also benefit from special promotions and invitations to in-store events such as food tastings.

The move was attacked yesterday by Sainsbury, Tesco's main rival, which dismissed it as ineffective and costly. A spokesman for the company claimed that the discounts offered by the card were inadequate and would fail to generate substantial sales increases. He estimated that the scheme would cost £55 million in its first year.

Sir Ian MacLaurin, Tesco chairman, said that the launch costs would be £5 million but the scheme was expected to break even this year and to be profitable thereafter.

Industry analysts predict that other supermarket chains will be forced to follow Tesco's lead. Sainsbury and Safeway are testing loyalty cards but said they had no plans to extend the schemes nationally.

Some observers believe that the real value of the Tesco clubcard will be in compiling detailed information on its customers' spending habits. One analyst said: "They will know everything — what their customers buy, how often they visit the store and how much they spend. In a market like this, that information is worth its weight in gold."

Fast food chain gets kicks over Route 66

By JON ASHWORTH

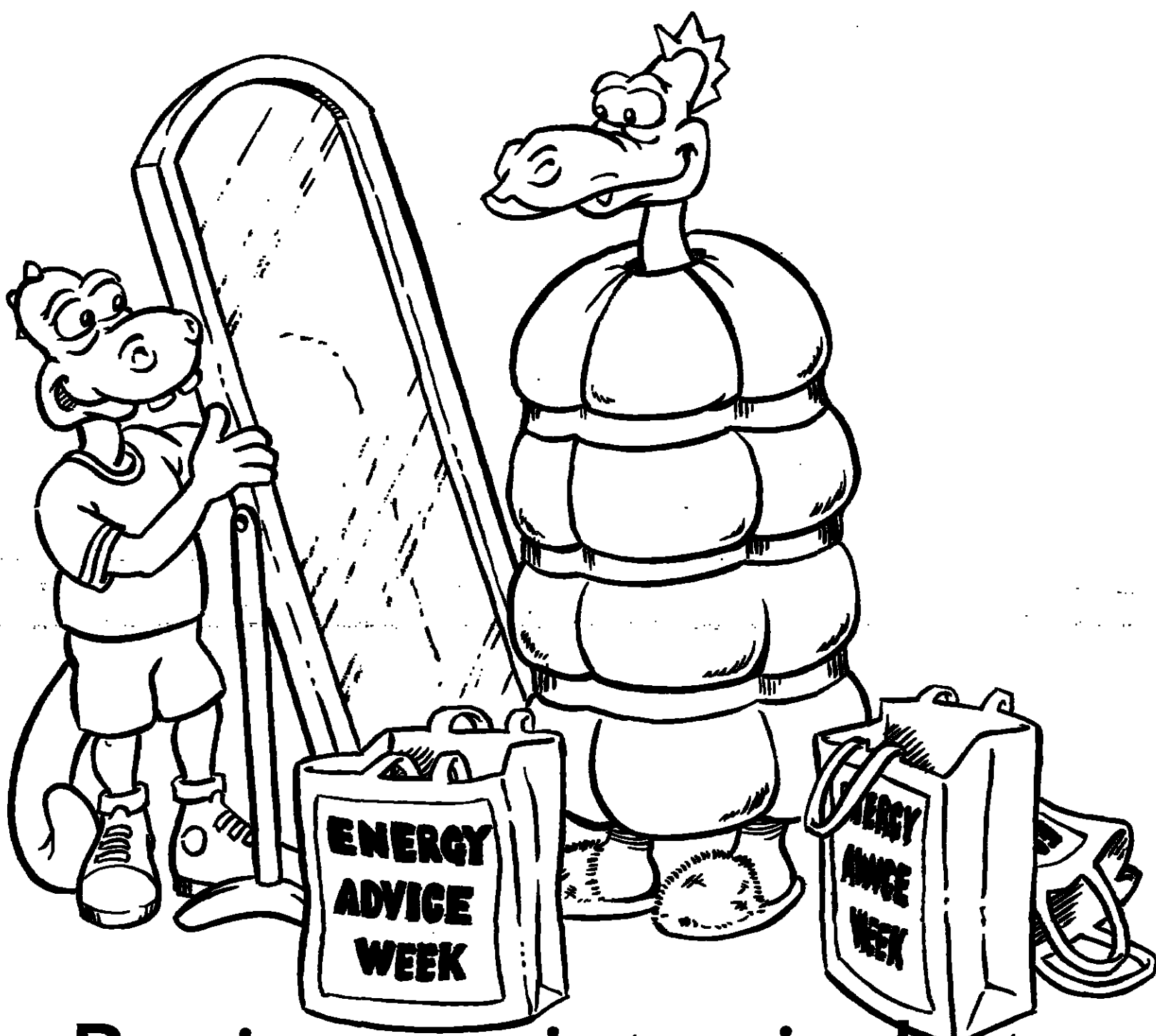
MCDONALD'S Route 66 American-theme promotion looked likely to be run off the road yesterday. A writ was lodged in the High Court yesterday accusing the fast-food firm of infringing a registered trade mark. Andre and Mairade Levy, a husband and wife team who own the Route 66 trade mark, are seeking an injunction to prevent McDonald's Restaurants using the name, which is central to its new television and radio campaign.

The Route 66 promotion was launched last month at a reported cost of £5 million. The words "Welcome to Route 66" are prominently displayed in McDonald's outlets. The Levys are seeking damages for infringement of a registered trade mark or a percentage of profits from the promotion. It is further seeking an order requiring McDonald's to remove or obliterate the infringing goods.

Mr Levy accused McDonald's of lifting an almost exact replica of their registered brand. A dispute with the Town & Country catering firm over use of the Route 66 name was settled in 1991.

Mr and Mrs Levy have been the registered owners of the Route 66 trade mark for catering services since 1991 and for non-alcoholic drinks and other drinks since 1990. They hope to use the name on a range of branded products, including cigarettes, beer and clothing. The statement of claim alleges that McDonald's has used these marks and continues to do so.

McDonald's said it is taking legal advice and expects to defend the proceedings vigorously. The promotion is scheduled to run until the end of next month.



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Cost: £10-15
Saving: £50

Thermostatic Radiator Valves
Cost: £45-75
Annual Saving: £10-20

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Counting the cost of the six most expensive official residences



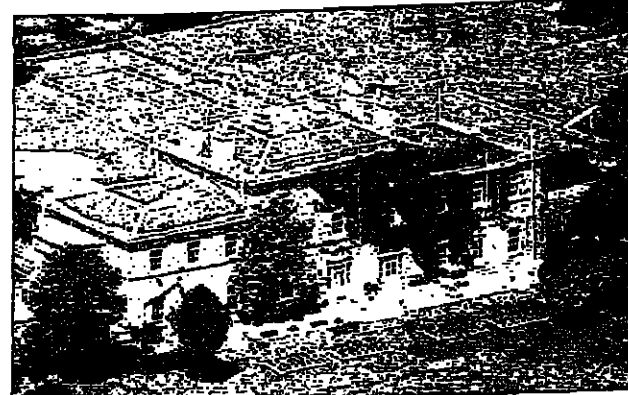
Haymes Garth cost £387,000 to refurbish

ELEVEN of the 78 official residences in the United Kingdom and abroad were investigated in a separate internal audit on the annual costs of maintenance. These are the six that cost the most:

- Bois de Mai, the Brussels home of Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chairman of Nato's Military Committee, bought for £2.2 million, cost £231,000 in 1992, £505,000 in 1993 and £31,000 in 1994.
- 6 Bradenham Beeches, High Wycombe, temporary home of commander-in-chief

- Strike Command, cost £7,000 to maintain in 1992, £6,000 in 1993 and £494,000 in 1994 (because of conversion work).
- Mountbatten House, Portsmouth, home of Commandant General Royal Marines, cost £68,000 in 1992, £71,000 in 1993 and £212,000 in 1994.
- McKee House, RAF Benson, home of Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group — cost £270,000 in 1993. Figures for the other two years are not available.
- Admiralty House, Plymouth, home of Flag Officer,

- Plymouth, cost £139,000 in 1992, £77,000 in 1993.
- Springfield Lodge, High Wycombe, residence of commander-in-chief, RAF Strike Command, cost £63,000 in 1992, £88,000 in 1993 and £26,000 in 1994.
- Air House at Rheindahlen, Germany, home of commander-in-chief RAF Germany, cost £13,000 in 1993. In 1991, when Sir Sandy Wilson was the commander-in-chief RAF Germany, £205,000 was spent.



Admiralty House, Plymouth, cost £77,000 in 1993

£33,000 on curtains is a fair price, say designers

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE £33,000 spent on curtains for Haymes Garth, Sir Sandy Wilson's official residence in Cheltenham, was not extravagant given the size of the Edwardian house, according to interior designers.

The house, valued by estate agents at about £500,000, has 12 rooms with 20 large windows, four of which are bay windows. Jane Churchill, a leading interior designer, said that for a house of that size and character, money spent on curtains could be seen as an investment.

She said that spending £33,000 for curtains "doesn't sound at all absurd to me, bearing in mind that they will probably last a long time, and that the house will entertain a lot of distinguished people. If you do it on the cheap it's going to look cheap."

"An official of Sir Sandy's standing shouldn't have to just hang up any old muslin curtains. Just because it's a government building doesn't mean it should be dull."

Jessica Hayns, the decoration editor of *World of Interiors*, said that the figure quoted could be on the cautious side. "Decent fabric can cost anything from £40 to £400 a metre, and £33,000 wouldn't actually get you the best money can buy — far from it. Perhaps the extravagance was doing the house all in one go."

Her view was echoed by the spokesman of a large London-based interior design firm. "This is not at all a shocking quote if you are using decent fabrics," he said. "And bearing in mind that the house was probably furnished in character, you would need to buy all the trimmings such as tie-backs and pelmets."

Staff at John Lewis thought they could do the job for less. "Obviously a lot depends on the fabric, linings and extra, but we think we could probably do a very good job for between £15,000 and £20,000," a spokesman said.

Error of judgment that ended air chief's career

EVEN his best friends admit that Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson has been his own worst enemy. He has always been extremely ambitious, thrusting and often arrogant on his way up to one of the top jobs in the RAF.

However, those who know him well are convinced he has been ousted from his £95,000 job because of a "dirty tricks" campaign in the Ministry of Defence. He has made many enemies, some of whom, they say, have been spreading stories about his supposed personal involvement in the overspending "scandal" at Haymes Garth, his official residence near Cheltenham which was upgraded at a cost of £387,000 from a two-star house to one suitable for a four-star air chief marshal.

Haymes Garth was in poor condition when the late Air Chief Marshal Sir John Thomson, then commander-in-chief of RAF Support Command, decided in 1992 that it should be renovated to become the official residence for the holder of a new RAF command which amalgamated personnel and training. Sir Sandy was the man appointed to that post which put him in charge of a budget of £880 million. A former RAF resident of Haymes Garth said that the east wing was propped up with girders.

Stories began to circulate of lavish spending at the house and allegations that Sir Sandy leant on his staff to get

■ Michael Evans describes how additional spending on the official RAF residence Haymes Garth coincided with defence cuts

Haymes Garth refurbished according to his personal tastes and the demands of his wife Mary. Sir Sandy's RAF superiors dismissed the smears being put about and said he was not personally responsible for authorising and monitoring the expenditure.

However, he had used his influence to ensure that the house was refurbished in a traditional style, with extra interior demolition work to provide more space for entertaining visitors. The additional work — and the £33,000 spent on curtains and £12,000 on carpets — was seen as a serious lack of judgment, especially since the extra spending coincided with cuts announced by the Ministry of Defence. The timing was fatal for Sir Sandy and perfect ammunition for his enemies.

Sir Sandy wanted to become the next Chief of the Air Staff to succeed Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon. There was only one serious rival, Sir John Thomson, who had moved from Support Command to take over RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire.

Sir John was a much quieter man and had many supporters for the top job. When Sir Sandy was facing all the flak about overspending on Haymes Garth, there was no mention of the fact that it was Sir John who had authorised the initial refurbishment, then to cost £250,000.

When Sir John died suddenly of a heart attack, Sir Sandy inevitably became, at least in his supporters' eyes, the man next in line to become Chief of the Air Staff. In such a role, he would undoubtedly have taken a strong and vociferous position on any future RAF cuts.

But he did not have enough friends in high places prepared to back him when Haymes Garth became a national issue. Sir Sandy had reached one of the most senior jobs in the RAF after a career which began in 1962. The initials of his Christian names, RAF — standing for Ronald Andrew Fellowes — were seen as an indication of where his destiny lay.

Sir Sandy, now 53 and with a daughter, stepdaughter and stepson, followed a classic RAF career path. Commissioned in 1962, he became a fighter pilot, flying Hunter and Phantom jets. He saw service in the Falklands after the ending of hostilities, holding the posts of Air Commander Headquarters of the British Forces as well as Station Commander of RAF Stanley.

Staff jobs at the MoD followed until his promotion to Air Vice-Marshal in 1987. In August 1990 he took initial charge of the British forces taking part in Operation Granby in the build-up to the Gulf War. He was succeeded in December that year by General Sir Peter de la Billière, but remained second in command.

Sir Sandy was promoted to commander-in-chief RAF Germany and then moved to Haymes Garth as head of the RAF's Personnel and Training Command and Air Member for Personnel on the RAF Board.

Rifkind's ultimatum, page 1
Simon Jenkins and Diary, page 16



Sir John: authorised initial refurbishment

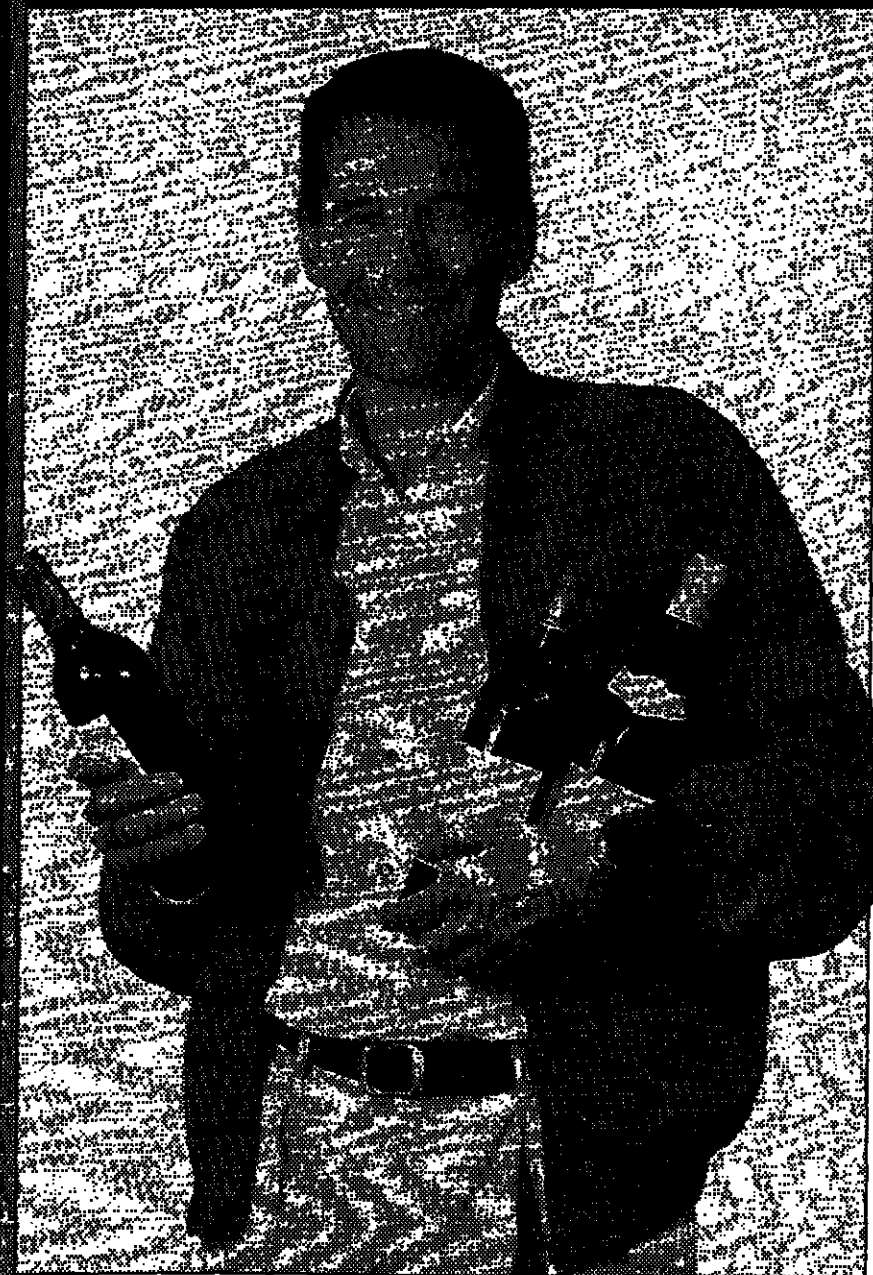


Sir Sandy's brash manner won him rapid promotion but made enemies too

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STENA LINE - THE WORLD'S LEADING FERRY COMPANY

By JOHN YOUNG

BY ANDREW PIERCE

Lord and Lady Brocket with two of his 40 Ferraris. The couple divorced in 1994

The 1643 Civil War battle of Chalgrove was excluded because it was rated a mere skirmish and did not last at least an hour, involve more than 1,000 men and cost at least 100 casualties. However, the John Hampden Society said it was far more than just a skirmish. The Royalist army numbered 1,800 men and 1,000 horses and, had Hampden not been killed, the history of the Civil War might have been different.

Love all IMPs

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Pass	5♦	All pass	4♦

switched to the nine of spades. Declarer won with the ace, ruffed a spade, played a diamond to the queen and cashed the ace of diamonds. When this drew all the trumps he was in with a chance. He ruffed a spade back to hand and West discarded a heart.

West's distribution was now known — he had five hearts, two spades, two diamonds and four clubs. As long as East's singleton was not the king or the two declarer was home. He played the queen of clubs, covered by the king, ace and ... six from East. Now declarer ruffed another spade and played his three of clubs. When West played the two diamond, he tossed dummy's four to make the contract.

Winning Move.
Weekend, page 27

Metallic paint



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Intrigue, jealousy and tragedy lay behind great geographical discovery of the Victorian age

Explorer's plaque reveals tale of rivalry on the Nile

By ALAN HAMILTON

VISITORS to Kensington Gardens in London will be familiar enough with the story behind its best-known statue, that of Peter Pan. They may be less aware that behind the nearby obelisk to the memory of John Hanning Speke lurks a tale of intrigue, jealousy and ultimate tragedy.

That omission is about to be put right. Speke is to acquire a bronze plaque on his red granite plinth acknowledging that he was one of the two protagonists in a great geographical rivalry of the Victorian age: who should take the credit for discovering the



source of the Nile? While Speke took the honours, his fellow explorer Sir Richard Burton took severe umbrage. The new inscription, replacing the baldly uninformative

legend that the monument has borne since it was erected in 1866 two years after Speke's death, will be unveiled on May 4, the 168th anniversary of his birth. It is the inspiration of the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, a voluntary body set up in 1991 with the support of the Royal Parks Agency, the garden's owner, to make modest improvements to the park.

Barbara Abensur, chairman of the Friends, said yesterday: "It seemed to us that there were a number of statues and monuments in the park without any explanation. To anyone who does not know the name of Speke, his monument is at present virtually meaningless."

Speke and Burton were on an expedition to solve one of the great mysteries of Africa in 1857. Together they discovered Lake Tanganyika, but Burton then decided to rest — a serious tactical error — while Speke went off on his own to discover Lake Victoria and the mighty river that flowed from it. Speke made it back to London first and staked his



Speke, top left, returned to Africa with Grant to confirm his findings, right, after his original claim was disputed by Burton, below left



claim to immortality, without emphasising too strongly that he had been a member of Burton's expedition.

A furious Burton dismissed Speke's claim, saying that the alleged discovery was quite unproven. Speke returned to Africa in 1860 accompanied by the explorer James Grant to confirm his findings, and famously cabled the Royal Geographical Society from Cairo

in 1862, having walked the 4,187-mile length of the river: "The Nile is settled."

Dr Andrew Tatham, keeper of the Royal Geographical Society, said yesterday: "The source of the Nile was a major matter for 19th century geographers. There was, to say the least, a certain amount of controversy at the time as to the respective roles of the two men. The Speke family were

keen that Burton should receive no credit at all for the discovery, which is why the original plaque on the obelisk is so uninformative."

The new inscription will acknowledge that Speke "was the first European, in conjunction with Richard Burton in 1857 and later James Grant in 1862, to discover Lake Victoria as the source of the Nile."

It will record, too, the man-

ner of Speke's death. The two men were to engage in a public debate of the British Association in Bath on September 15, 1864 to argue their respective claims to fame. That morning, Speke, having endured all the privations that Africa could throw at him, accidentally shot himself while out hunting partridge and died instantly.

His memorial was raised by

public subscription after an appeal by Sir Roderick Murchison, president of the Royal Geographical Society, in *The Times*. Speke's obelisk was designed by Philip Hardwick, RA, whose most famous creation was the Doric Arch at the old Euston station.

Burton's memorial is much less grand: a bust within the society's headquarters at Kensington Gore.

THE SOURCE OF THE NILE

The members of the Royal Institution held a special meeting last night to hear a lecture delivered by Captain Speke on the discovery of the source of the Nile. The lecture was sponsored by the presence of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was attended by General Knollys, Sir Roderick Murchison, and a numerous suite. The Prince was accompanied by the Comte de Paris and several other members of the late Royal family of France.

Before commencing his lecture Captain Speke introduced

How The Times reported Speke's discovery

Charities for children and homeless head queue for lottery handouts

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

CHARITIES dealing with children, health, the homeless and the unemployed are likely to head the queue for National Lottery money.

Absent from the list of initiatives earmarked for money at a meeting yesterday to launch the National Lottery Charities Board's guidelines for grant distribution were environment groups, animal welfare and medical research charities. However, the board promised to pay equal attention to large and small charities, and invited voluntary groups to comment on its plans.

The Hon David Sieff, board chairman and director of Marks and Spencer, said that the board intended to help those at greatest disadvantage. He emphasised that charities involved in political activi-

ties would not be supported. "We hope that, through giving grants, we will make an impact on the lives of people suffering poverty, disadvantage and discrimination," he said. "We aim to help prevent the emergence of new social problems, tackle causes of existing problems and address the needs they create."

Organisations concerned with women's issues, ethnic and cultural minorities and other groups affected by discrimination would also be regarded sympathetically, he said. The board, which will begin inviting applications by June, said that it will consult widely before making final decisions on distribution. Mr Sieff said: "Inevitably there will be many demands on the board's funds and we will have to make decisions about which causes should receive higher or lower priority."

Stuart Etherington, chief executive of

the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, said: "The board will be swamped with applications and won't be able to satisfy everyone. It is so hard to prioritise because all charities say they are in need of money, and charities are also experts in applying for grants. The board may find that it comes under pressure to rethink its strategy."

Lottery organisers hope to give £9 billion to good causes over the next seven years. Hundreds of groups have requested help from the four other distributing bodies. The Arts Council has received 50 applications for £146 million available for distribution, the Millennium Fund has had 200 applications, the National Heritage Memorial Fund has received 70 applications for £50 million and the Sports Council has had 272 applications for a share of £70 million.

Fire engines used to go shopping

By PAUL WILKINSON

FIRE CREWS in Newcastle upon Tyne are taking their engines on supermarket shopping runs because their car-ten staff have been sacked to save money. While firefighters race round the aisles picking up a week's groceries, colleagues wait outside in case an emergency call comes in.

Doug Henderson, Labour MP for Newcastle North, has demanded an explanation from Tyne and Wear fire chiefs. He said: "This is completely ridiculous. The shoppers who see this must wonder what is happening to our fire service."

Special constables deterred by attitude of regular police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FIFTH of Britain's 20,000 special constables resign each year, many because of the attitudes of friends and regular officers, according to a Home Office report yesterday.

Many specials, who work unpaid in evenings and weekends, complained about the way they were treated by officers, who they said, needed to be trained to work alongside them. Others said that they had been criticised by friends. A significant number said that they kept their membership secret.

The research, among more than 800 specials in London and Dorset, comes as the

Government considers paying an allowance to volunteers. The Home Office has launched a drive to push numbers up to 30,000. Last month a Hampshire teacher working as special was instrumental in the capture of three prisoners who escaped from Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

The recruitment drive has been successful, but the report highlights the need to do more to retain officers, who are increasingly used to relieve the pressure on regular police. The retention is high for a voluntary organisation, despite the turnover.

Average service is more than four years.

However, the report said that wastage should be reduced and called for better treatment and use of specials. Many needed to be made to feel valued and the Home Office should consider methods of allowing specials to rejoin after resigning when they move home.

Many joined because they were interested in joining the police full-time. The special attracted more women and recruits from ethnic minorities than the regular police. In Dorset in 1991 49 per cent of specials were women.



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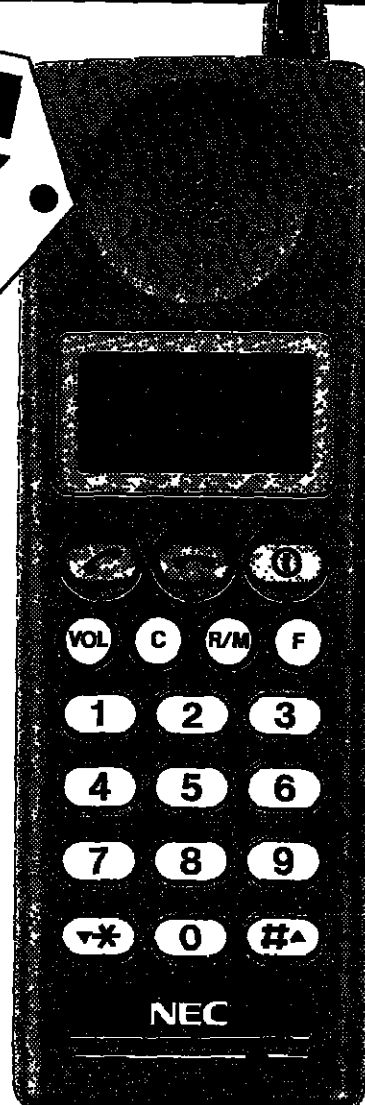
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Claiming animal 'rights' devalues cases of basic human need

One of the first tasks of any pressure group is to capture the language, thereby forcing its opponents constantly to acknowledge the group's concerns. The use of the phrase "animal rights" is a case in point. I fully share the concern of those who have coined it, that animals should be treated with respect and spared unnecessary suffering. But the phrase itself should be resisted.

To claim a "right" may be to do no more than to assert a strong moral demand. But

Credo

John Habgood

this is not the way the word is usually understood. Human rights seem to refer to some inherent quality or value in human life which demands recognition, is backed by international agreements, and defines a boundary in the treatment of our fellow human beings that should not be crossed. Rights entail cor-

responding responsibilities, and both words imply the existence of a moral community within which there is some degree of shared recognition of the balance between them. Rights are most characteristically invoked as a means of protection against an oppressive state, the implication being that the moral community is wider than the individual state.

As presumed "rights" have multiplied, the mutuality between rights and responsibilities has diminished, and "rights" are proclaimed for

which nobody is, or could be, responsible. In fact they begin to look more like political ideals and less like inherently necessary conditions for a truly human life. One consequence of this gradual devaluation of the concept is to make it less effective in those extreme circumstances where it is really needed. The right not to be tortured, for instance, should be regarded as absolute, and not to be weakened by considerations of supposed political necessity. Against this background "an-

imal rights" seem highly dubious. Human beings unquestionably have a moral responsibility towards animals, but they do not form part of the same moral community with us; indeed they do not form part of any moral community, since they do not and cannot exercise any moral responsibility. Animals make no claim on us as sentient beings who need space and scope to live their own lives and to be spared suffering.

The claim is more strongly felt when their lives are

closely entwined with our own, and when it is clear that they can suffer pain and distress. But although pet owners frequently use moral language about their pets — "good dog, lazy cat" — few would imagine that they are actually moral beings. They cannot, therefore, have any rights towards each other. Nor is it clear how, say, the rights to life and to be spared unnecessary suffering can have any meaning for wild animals outside a human context, except in terms of some general obligation on

human beings to preserve the natural environment. These are only some of the complexities to which the notion of "animal rights" gives rise. To suppose that they are inherent in some value or quality in animal life as such poses the further sharp question, which animals? All, or only some? And if all, on what grounds do we designate some as vermin?

Talk of "rights" seems to imply an absoluteness that is unsustainable in theory, and dangerous in practice, in that it inflates moral claims to the

point of inducing some protesters to disregard the legitimate claims of their fellow human beings. To talk instead about our responsibility towards sentient creatures places the moral imperative where it belongs, namely in ourselves, and also allows scope for negotiating some reasonable balance of responsibilities between one group and another.

Dr John Habgood is Archbishop of York

At your Service, Weekend, page 2

Churchgoers give twice as much as parents did

By Dominic Kennedy

WORSHIPERS each give twice as much in real terms to the Church of England as their counterparts a generation ago.

The average weekly contribution of between £2 and £3 still falls far short of the £5 which the Bishop of Chester recommended as appropriate for anyone who could afford tickets for a Football League match. The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev Michael Baughen, referring to the Church of England's financial crisis, provoked controversy when he said that too many people gave £1 a week or less when they could afford much more.

The Church Commissioners, who lost millions by investing heavily in property during the 1980s, announced this week that their biggest commercial asset, the Metro-Centre in Gateshead, was being sold to safeguard clergy stipends and pensions.

The Church carefully avoids recommending a weekly donation in case the rich treat it as a maximum and the poor feel stigmatised because they cannot afford it. An Anglican source said, however, that if every worshipper gave £5 a week, finances would be

healthy. The average parish electoral roll member gives £2.17 weekly to the Church, according to the latest figures for 1992. In 1964, the weekly contribution was slightly more than two shillings, which would be worth about £1.05 in contemporary terms.

The increased generosity of worshippers has ensured that the total received by the Church has risen in real terms over the past three decades, despite smaller congregations. In 1964, £14,961 was donated, which at current prices is worth £146,957. In 1992, £164,854 was received.

The figures take into account church collections, boxes and covenants. Covenanted giving has increased greatly from the equivalent of £20,755 (actual figure £2,113) in 1964 to £86,617 in 1992. The weekly average donated by covenant is £4.14.

Giving varies widely according to diocese. Londoners contribute an average of £4.30 a week. Among those who contribute least are worshippers in Lincoln (£1.33), Truro (£1.48), Hereford (£1.50) and Sodor and Man (£1.50).

The Church says giving remains "very modest" and warns that substantial increases will be required over the next few years to maintain a nationwide parochial ministry. Trends are encouraging. Giving rose 4 per cent faster than inflation in 1992. Planned, tax-efficient giving in particular rose by 7 per cent more than the cost of living.

Steve Jenkins, a spokesman for the Church of England, said: "What the Church recommends is that people give according to how much thanksgiving they feel they owe to God. Giving is all to do with saying thank you to God for his gifts."



Bishop Baughen: giving not high enough

Chorister ousted over 'pagan' shop

By Bill Frost

AN ACCOMPLISHED singer and devout Christian has been expelled from a church choir because of the "New Age paraphernalia" she sells at her gift shop.

Kate Harper, 56, a soprano, has been told that her services will not be required for the traditional Palm Sunday concert at St Kenelm's in Clifton-on-Terne, Hereford and Worcester. Keith Jaffrey, the choir-master, said the shop was not compatible with Christian worship.

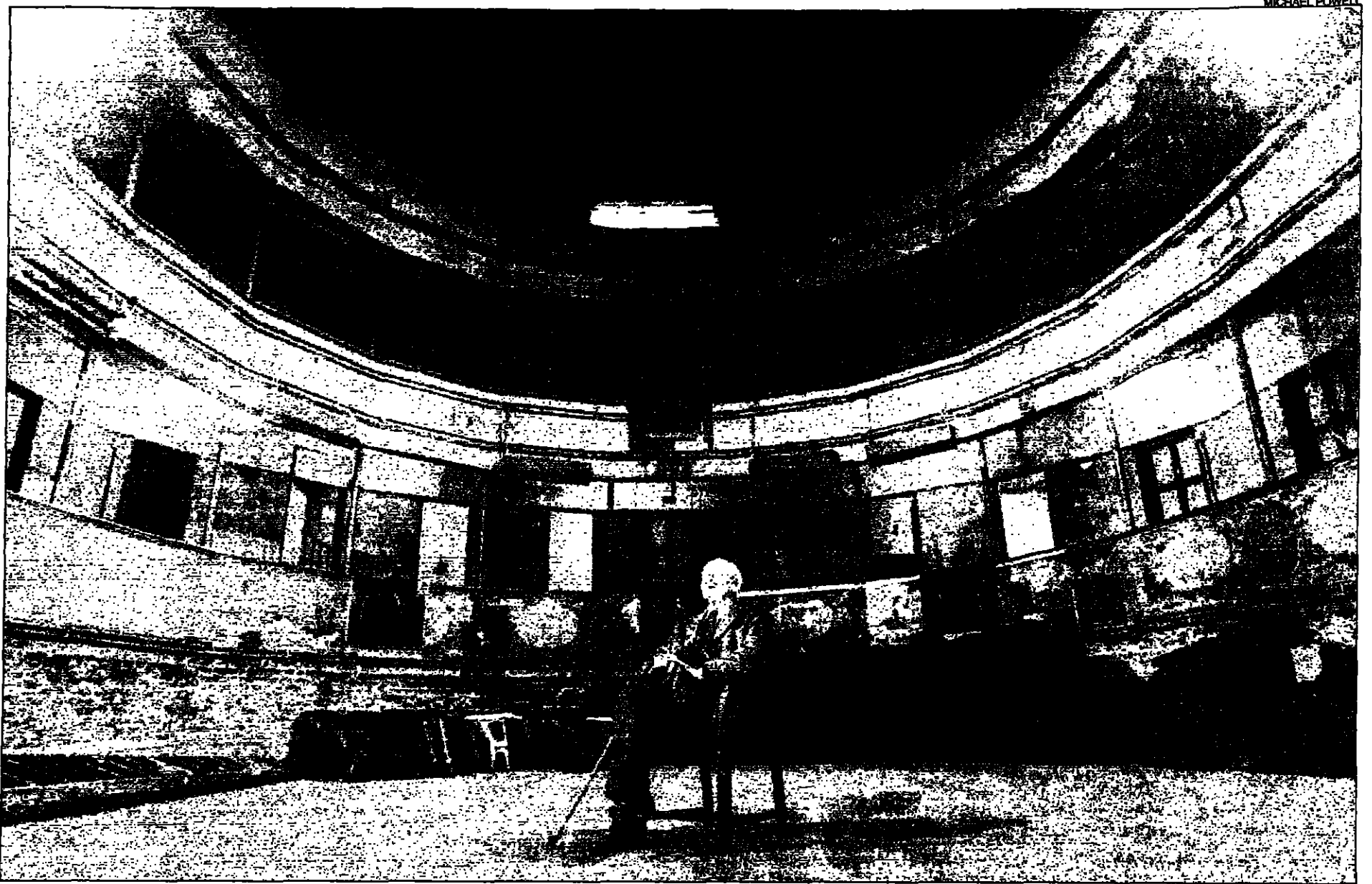
Mrs Harper, who lives opposite the church, launched her business in Tenbury Wells four months ago. Among other items, she sells Tarot cards, Peruvian rain sticks and dowsing rods. She said: "If Keith came to me and said I'm not inviting you because you can't sing, I could understand it. But I'm not peddling por-

nography or casting spells on anybody."

"I've known him for 26 years and was flabbergasted — I was very upset and felt betrayed by a friend. My own Christianity is very simple. It's about being seen to practise what you preach."

Mr Jaffrey, a 55-year-old insurance underwriter, was unrepentant. "This is not about how good a person you are — it's a clash of beliefs," he said. "I felt the fact that she does this for a living now is incompatible with the fact that we are singing about somebody who said he was the only way."

The Rev Clifford Owen, rector of Clifton-on-Terne, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys, has been asked to adjudicate in the dispute. "I may invite the bishop to step in," he said.



George Rylands, 92, surveying restoration work at the Festival Theatre in Cambridge. The Georgian building is due to reopen its doors to the public on March 10 with James Shirley's *The Lady of Pleasure*, 60 years to the day that Sir George directed *Antony and Cleopatra* at the same theatre

Oxford tries to curb new recruits to sexist club

By Ben Preston, Education Correspondent

THE United Oxford and Cambridge University Club faces a fresh threat as colleges attempt to switch off the supply of new members over its refusal to treat women equally.

The heads of Oxford colleges are expected to put pressure on the university's main graduate organisation to stop publishing advertisements for the club in *Pall Mall*, London. They want the Oxford Society, which has a membership of more than 40,000 former students, to stop helping the club to recruit graduates through its regular newsletters. Students are planning to demonstrate outside meetings in Oxford organised by the club this summer as part of its annual membership drive.

Sir Christopher Zeeland, principal of Hertford College, said: "We are a bit cheesed off with the Oxford Society for advertising the club. We think we may put a bit of pressure on them not to do so. Our women graduates are irritated and annoyed when they see advertisements for the club. We hope the society will no longer allow it to advertise."

A full-page advertisement in a recent issue of the newsletter boasts of the club's excellent catering facilities, magnificent library of more than 20,000 books and notable cellars. It says "applications for lady associate members are welcomed".

But the advertisement does not mention that women are forbidden full member-

ship, use of the library, members' bar or the marble staircase. A spokesman for the Oxford Society refused to comment, saying: "This is an essentially private matter."

The move came as David Butler, the political scientist who triggered the furore by announcing his resignation in *The Times* last month, rejected the club's stance as "wholly negative". He dismissed a defence of the status quo, sent to members this week by the club chairman, Gerald Bowden, which suggested that "political correctness" lay behind the campaign for change.

Dr Butler, a fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, criticised Mr Bowden's insistence that a ballot 18 months ago, rejecting the admission of women, was a "democratic decision" of members. He accused the club committee of "total insensitivity" to a

three to one vote in favour of change.

"In fact, the vote was 76 per cent to 24 per cent to admit women as full members. This was recorded in an astonishingly high turnout (62 per cent)." He said that a new rule requiring half of all members to vote for change was achieved in 1992 with "well-organised proxy votes".

Mr Bowden, a former Tory MP, told members that letters from "lady associate" members since the controversy became public suggested that most were happy with the present arrangements.

Dr Butler responded that many were "just the wives and daughters" of club members and were not Oxbridge graduates. "They cannot speak for the women members of the university — and their supporters — who find this second-class status so distasteful."



Butler, left, dismisses Bowden's defence of policy



Charter pair jailed

Paul Massey, 53, and Alan Curtis, 49, airline sales executives who claimed thousands of pounds in illicit commission from Britannia Airways, have been jailed for 18 months by Southwark Crown Court, south London. Henry Wolff, 69, a travel broker, was given a suspended sentence.

Drug alert

Lancashire Police have issued a warning after the deaths of a woman aged 19 and Mark Owen, 35, who are believed to have bought heroin from the same source in Blackpool.

Youths charged

Three teenagers were remanded in custody charged with murdering Richard Everitt, 15, who was stabbed to death at St Pancras, north London, last August.

Spinal cord first

Christopher Henley, 36, from Bradford, is the first person in Britain to receive a double spinal cord implant to relieve Raynaud's Disease, which causes frostbite-like symptoms.

Rendell honour

The crime writer Ruth Rendell is to receive an honorary doctorate of letters from the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Marked down

Thieves stole 20 million 1920s German marks from a collector's home at Jarrow, Tyne and Wear. They have a face value of about 4p.

Airlines operate black market in take-off slots

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A SECRET "black market" is operating between airlines seeking to gain additional take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and other congested airports throughout Europe, the Civil Aviation Authority claimed yesterday.

Under-the-counter deals, involving one airline paying another to hand over its valuable slots, have been going on for years as airlines jostle to fly at the most convenient and popular times. Although not formally outlawed, there is no legal basis for the deals. The authority says that the black market should be recognised and airlines should be forced to declare which slots they buy and how much they pay.

"Secondary trading involving money payments are both necessary to maintain and improve flexibility in the system and are probably also inevitable," it says in a report to be sent to the European Union. "Such trading should be made transparent but without injecting more procedures or additional bureaucracy. The revised EC regulations should require that, where money changes hands, airlines must register all exchanges together with the sum paid."

The authority's study of slot distribution proposes the creation of a pool of thousands of take-off and landing times which would then be allocated to airlines in sufficient numbers to enable them to mount a

realistic competitive challenge on the most popular routes. Under EC regulations which came into force in 1993 and are due to be re-examined at the end of this year, larger airlines capable of operating sufficient services each day to mount a challenge to the existing operators are unable to obtain the slots.

Christopher Chataway, the authority chairman, said: "A central aim of the existing EC regulation concerning the distribution of slots is to stimulate competition and provide support for new competing airlines. But in practice it has fallen a long way short of achieving this. On many of the most congested routes there are still just two airlines who are used to co-operating rather than competing."

Proposals for an international airport in the heart of Oxfordshire have been scrapped. A private group of developers wanted to build the £4.5 billion Low airport on farm land near Abingdon in an attempt to ease congestion at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Residents, local councils and MPs reacted angrily. Up to 3,413 houses in nearby villages would have been affected, with 87 having to be demolished to make way for two 4,000-yard runways.

The developers wrote to Oxfordshire County Council yesterday formally withdrawing the proposal, which had been submitted to the Department of Transport.

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Fifty years ago the Allied leaders met in the Crimean town of Yalta to divide a defeated nation

How the Big Three made Germany pay for wartime sins

ON FEBRUARY 11, 1945 the "big three" Allied leaders — Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin — concluded a week of talks in the Crimean town of Yalta, in a former Tsarist palace overlooking the Black Sea. In peacetime Yalta had been a popular holiday resort but the purpose of their meeting was anything but peaceful: to plan the final defeat and occupation of Germany.

It had already been agreed that post-war Germany should be divided into occupied zones administered by the Allies, although there had been some disagreement over whether France should have its own zone. Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union had already recognised General de Gaulle as head of the provisional French government, but Roosevelt was adamant that he should not be invited to Yalta.

For some reason Roosevelt

■ In another of our occasional series leading up to the VE-Day commemorations in May, John Young looks at Allied bargaining on the shape of post-war Europe

also wanted the British, who since the Normandy landings had occupied the left flank of the Allied advance and therefore spearheaded the drive into northern Germany, to swap places with the Americans further south.

But it was agreed that the Soviets would control a bloc extending 200 miles west of Berlin, the Americans would occupy the southern Rhineland and Bavaria, the British would be responsible for northwest Germany and the French would administer the Saar and most of the territory which it had historically disputed with Germany. Stalin was prepared to be concilia-

tory over the division of German territory, possibly because he did not foresee the Americans keeping troops in Europe for long and believed that once they left Germany would be his for the taking.

There was agreement that they had no obligation to German civilians other than to provide minimum subsistence; that all German industry that could be used for weapons production should be destroyed; and that war criminals would be tried before an international court. But Stalin demanded that forced labour should be used for repairing the devastation to his country. Churchill and Roosevelt,

however, argued that reparations should be paid for from the German people's post-war earnings, that there should be no seizure of capital assets and that, so far possible, living standards should be protected. They had no wish to repeat the tragic error of the Treaty of

Versailles, signed at the end of the First World War in 1919, which, by imposing impossibly harsh conditions on a defeated people, had paved the way for Hitler to exploit the feeling of national humiliation.

Equally, if not more, conten-

tious was the issue of Poland. Not only had Polish troops fought vigorously and heroically for the Allied cause, but Britain and the United States had maintained relations with the strongly anti-communist Polish government-in-exile in London. The Russians recog-

nised the communist-dominated Polish committee of national liberation in Lublin. A compromise was reached whereby a provisional government would include representatives of both groups pending free elections. Poland's border with Russia was agreed but its southern and western borders were left in abeyance. Both decisions infuriated Polish exiles, who foresaw *de facto* partition of their country or worse.

An agreement that had similarly unhappy consequences was that Marshal Tito, the Yugoslav partisan leader, would join Ivan Subasic, the royalist prime minister, in a government of national unity. Stalin also had his eye on possible gains for his Far Eastern empire.

At that stage the atom bomb was still on the drawing board. Roosevelt therefore believed that he would need Soviet help to finish the war in the Pacific. A secret agreement was reached whereby the Russians would enter the war against Japan two or three

months after Germany surrendered. In return it would be allowed to annex territory lost to Imperial Russia in the war between the Tsar and the Emperor in 1904-05.

Roosevelt agreed that Japan would cede the Kurile islands, still a bone of contention 50 years on, that the Soviet Union would be allowed to establish a naval base on the island of Sakhalin, and that Outer Mongolia would be granted independence from China. Stalin undertook to sign a treaty of friendship with the Chinese leader, Chiang Kai-Shek, and raised the possibility of appeasing him by agreeing to hand over Hong Kong, a suggestion which Churchill rejected.

Yalta has been blamed for many of the tribulations of the subsequent half century. But one positive outcome was agreement on a charter for the United Nations and the establishment of a permanent Security Council.

Dresden protest, page 11
Tim Garton-Ash, page 16



Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin wanted to avoid mistakes made by the Treaty of Versailles, imposing harsh conditions on a bitter people

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Tribute to American airmen takes off

MORE than £1.3 million has been raised in the United States towards the estimated £5.3 million needed to build an annex to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, to house American warplanes (John Young writes).

Charlton Heston, the actor, and Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former chief of the defence staff, are co-chairmen of the project, which

would commemorate the sacrifices made by American pilots flying missions over Nazi Germany. The display would include aircraft from later conflicts as well as the Second World War.

On Thursday night Baroness Thatcher helped the cause by speaking at a fundraising dinner in Houston, Texas. A committee has also been established to raise money in Britain.

THE TIMES

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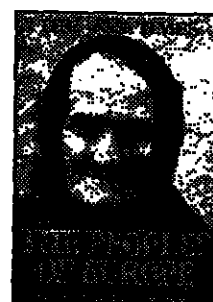
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German Neo-Nazis send out call for anti-British protests at Dresden

Anniversary of bombing opens 'war crime' wound

FROM ROGER BOYES IN DRESDEN

A NEO-NAZI group is planning today to stage an anti-British demonstration in the centre of Dresden during the 50th anniversary commemorations of the Allied bombing of the city.

The city authorities have banned demonstrations by both left- and right-wing extremist groups during this sensitive anniversary but the so-called "Federation for a United Germany" plans to go ahead anyway. The group is close to the well-established National Party of Germany and has been sending calls for the demonstration to computer mailboxes and over a special telephone line for far-right sympathisers.

The move raises the question of how the people of Dresden now regard the British and Americans, half a century after the bombing that razed their city. The first raid, by the RAF, was on February 13, 1945. It was followed by three raids by the then US Army Air Force.

Ursula Wilde, now a retired bookkeeper, was 24 at the time of the firebombing and fled from cellar to cellar to escape the intense heat and the collapsing buildings. She remembers it all: the panic, the rush for water, the corpses underfoot, the suffocated and the charred. "No," she says now, "I don't hate the British."

In October 1992 eggs were thrown at the Queen who was greeted with placards de-

manding: "Away with Bomber Harris!" But the context was different: only months before a statue had been unveiled in London to the mastermind of RAF Bomber Command, Sir Arthur Harris, and anger was running high in Dresden. Harris is still regarded in Dresden as a war criminal.

A young taxi driver on the road from the airport points to the large barracks recently vacated by the Russian troops.

THE SURVIVORS

"No metaphor of hell can fully describe the firestorm."

Dresden's bombers and victims recall the air raids.

In The Times on Monday

"They were occupied by the Wehrmacht before, and yet they were not touched by a single bomb," he says. "Can you tell me why he didn't select any military targets?"

There will be no RAF representative at the ceremonies on February 13. Instead, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, the Chief of the Defence Staff, will lay a wreath at the main grave of unidentified victims. The principal British representative will be the Duke of Kent.

Attempt to save victims

Paris: Allied troops did try to save Nazi concentration camp inmates towards the end of the Second World War, despite widespread accusations to the contrary, France's best known spy-master says in his memoirs.

Jacques Foccart, an aide to General Charles de Gaulle, the French leader, writes that he headed the French contingent of an allied unit trained to be parachuted into the

camp to prevent retreating SS guards from massacring the inmates as Germany collapsed. But M Foccart says the scheme was called off after a first team vanished without trace after being dropped into the heart of Nazi Germany.

A second team was captured by the Germans and, after escaping, was imprisoned by advancing Soviet forces. (Reuter)

inflicted wound still hangs in the air. Dr Herbert Wagner, the Mayor of Dresden, is very clear about this: "We know that this war brought about 40-45 million dead throughout the world, and we are well aware who started the war."

The communists, he said, manipulated the Dresden bombing to make it an indictment of West German and American "militarism". Nowadays Dresden's school classes discuss the bombing but always in the broader context of the war. English language classes use a textbook that deals with both the Dresden and the Coventry bombings. The engineer supervising the rebuilding of the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), which collapsed in the intense heat of the raid, receives threatening mail. But again this is part of a different debate. The Frauenkirche was allowed to stay as a blackened mountain of rubble as a political warning against militarism. The project to restore the church was therefore regarded as controversial.

The latest restoration estimate of 400 million marks (£168 million) has reawakened the critics, but anti-British sentiments play only a marginal role. On the contrary, the work of the Dresden Trust, whose supporters include Canon Paul Oestreicher of Coventry Cathedral and Lord Menuhin, the musician, have helped to soothe the mood. The Trust has been raising money for the restoration of the Frauenkirche; significantly, the Queen has made a private contribution of several thousand pounds to the Trust.

As a student, Goethe stood on the upper gallery of the Frauenkirche and surveyed a landscape of ruins. The sacristan told him: "Das hat der Feind getan" [the enemy did that]. The enemy forces were the Prussians who besieged Dresden in 1760.

The city was never, of course, so completely bombarded as on February 13-14,



The scene from Dresden's city hall in the aftermath of the allied bombing raids

1945. More than 3,500 tonnes of explosive and phosphorous were dropped. Twelve thousand buildings were destroyed, including 25 churches and five theatres. The Army Museum was not touched. According to the latest estimates by German historians, 25,000 people died.

The writer Christoph Dieckmann puts Dresden in the new German perspective. "We can say, not as witnesses, nor as prosecutors, that Dresden was an Allied war crime instigated by Hitler's Germany," he says. "Goering would not have hesitated for a second to Coventry-ise British cities if he had been able." But

at the same time: "Germany's liberators also waded in blood. Soldiers are murderous, war has no other use for them."

Dresden wants a little more from Britain than Britain is prepared to give. Not exactly an apology — that plainly will not be forthcoming — but a critical revision of its own role in the raids. Not even the tolerant Dresden Mayor can understand the erection of the statue of Harris.

Die Woche newspaper commented this week with amazement that the RAF Museum in London has dedicated a hall to 55,000 fallen British and Commonwealth airmen. "Almost

every air target is scrupulously recorded there. But there is no reference to Dresden," the paper said.

An elderly greengrocer said: "We would like to see the Queen make a gesture similar to Willy Brandt at the Warsaw ghetto memorial, a gesture of remorse. But before she can do this, the English will have to recognise that they committed a great wrong."

Memorial defaced: Vandals sprayed graffiti on the memorial to victims of the bombing, police said. One slogan read: "Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka. German perpetrators are not victims." (Reuter)

Turks see gains to be made from Greek EU veto

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

GREECE'S attempt to block closer ties between the European Union and Turkey may ultimately work in Ankara's favour, Turkish officials and business executives believe.

Athens announced on Thursday that it would not lift its objections to Turkey proceeding to a full customs union on manufactured goods with the EU, pending an improved deal over Cyprus and increased compensation for its textile sector. Yet that decision will immediately harm European manufacturers, who now pay an estimated £1.3 billion in tariffs to get access to Turkish markets.

Under the schedule for customs union, Turkish manufacturers enjoy free access to European markets with the important exception of quotas on textiles and clothing. Should agreement with Brussels be signed, it becomes the turn of Turkish industry to lift an average 12.8 per cent level

of protection. Over the past year, most Turkish manufacturers have become reluctant converts to customs union. The common belief is that Turkey can only survive in the long term by being a member of the trade bloc, according to Yavuz Canevi, former head of the Turkish central bank.

It is the short-term adjustment which terrifies Ankara. Turkish industry is being asked to make a structural adjustment at a time when wholesale prices are rising at 150 per cent a year and interest rates make commercial borrowing an impossibility.

The prospect of being denied the forbidden fruit of Europe has now excited a previously apathetic or even hostile public.

In Nicosia, a spokesman for the Cyprus Government said last night that it had no alternative but to accept the Athens decision to continue negotiations on issues relating to the island.

New Vikings seek fortunes at sea

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A THOUSAND years after their forefathers ravaged the English coast, Britain has locked horns with latter-day Vikings threatening pillage and plunder. This time it is not Danegeld they seek, but the riches that lie beneath the sea — in particular, the oil and gas resources off the Shetlands.

Britain and the Faroes each claim underwater drilling rights in the continental shelf around their islands. But their zones overlap, and for the past 20 years the two countries have been negotiating intermittently. Unable to agree, they now face three choices: a final push to reach a solution, a ruling by the International Court of Justice or a new Viking war.

The first option is the most likely. A Foreign Office legal team, including a naval hydrographer, will resume talks with the Faroese later this month, after a meeting in

Copenhagen between Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and Edmund Joensen, the leader of the Faroes Home Rule Government. Both sides insist they want an amicable settlement, and do not want to take the dispute to The Hague.

The Faroes, an archipelago of 17 rocky islands midway between the Shetlands and Iceland, are a self-governing part of Denmark, first settled by Irish monks, colonised by the Vikings and Christianised by the king of Norway 990 years ago. The Vikings once occupied much of Britain and Scotland; in the Second World War Britain controlled the Faroes after the Germans occupied Denmark.

The barren islands support only about 45,000 people who make a good living from fish — but the oil potential could bring them the same bonanza that has transformed the Shetlands.

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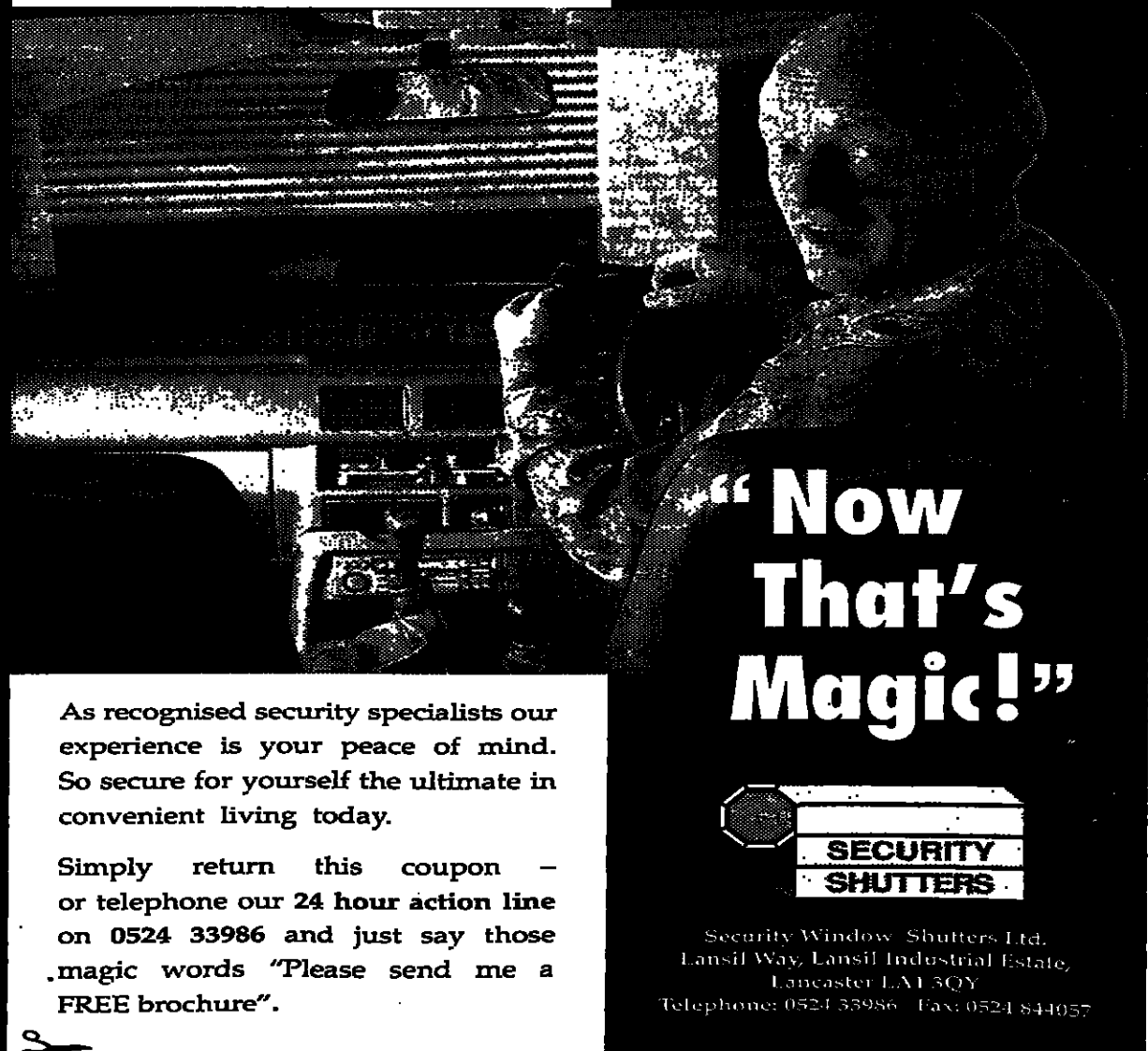
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Christians fearful after Pakistan death sentences

By Christopher Thomas, South Asia Correspondent

THE sentencing to death of two Christians, one a 14-year-old boy, for blasphemy against the Prophet Muhammad has highlighted the increasing persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. Both were shot and wounded by Islamic fanatics during their year-long trial. A third accused was shot dead.

After being found guilty, Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih, 40, were ordered to do two years' hard labour and pay heavy fines before being executed. It is only the second time the death sentence has been imposed since parliament amended the penal code in July 1992, raising the blasphemy penalty from life imprisonment to death.

In the first case, a higher court acquitted the accused on appeal. The law says that anybody who "directly or indirectly" defiles the name of the Holy Prophet, whether visibly or by innuendo, must be

executed. The wording has been criticised as too vague. A person can be convicted of blasphemy on the word of a single witness. The religious passion surrounding the case has demonstrated the extent of Islamisation of Pakistan's civil and criminal laws since the early 1980s, leaving minorities vulnerable. The sentencing to death of a child has outraged human rights organisations. He is on death row at Lahore Central Jail.

During the trial, fundamentalist mullahs led demonstrations demanding execution of the two Christians, accused by an imam (prayer leader) of throwing scraps of paper, containing blasphemous remarks, into a mosque. Asma Jahangir, the lawyer chairwoman of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission who is representing the accused, said in Lahore last night that the verdict had left religious minorities feeling threatened.

"It gives an invitation to religious terrorist groups to seek fresh victims by using the law," she said. "Even if the execution is never carried out, it is inhumane and unjust to impose the death penalty on a child." An appeal had been lodged with Lahore High Court and she was optimistic that bail would be granted to both accused within a month.

Three gunmen on a motorcycle shot the two accused, both Roman Catholics, as they left a court hearing in Lahore last April, seriously injuring them. A human rights worker accompanying them was also wounded. Three suspects, all said by police to be members of Islamic terrorist groups, have been charged and released on bail. Religious minorities make up 5 per cent of Pakistan's population of 124 million. Most Christians, numbering about 2.5 million, are Roman Catholics belonging to the multi-denominational Church of Pakistan, which includes Anglicans, American Methodists, Lutherans and Scottish Presbyterians.

Pakistan's judicial system has been steadily weakened by the parallel operation of the Sharia courts, which prescribe Islamic punishments — including stoning, public flogging and amputation. Successive leaders of Pakistan, founded in 1947, have attempted to exploit religion to define the nation, which was declared an Islamic republic in 1956. There is little else to unite it: ethnic, linguistic and tribal battles, fuelled by drugs and a pervasive gun culture, threaten to tear it apart.



For all their beauty, Cambodian villages are among the poorest in South-East Asia and in dire need of healthcare. British agencies say

Britons win reprieve for Cambodia aid mission

By Eve-Anne Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent

DISMAYED British aid workers in Cambodia have persuaded the British Government to think again about a decision to stop funding them unless they abandon the countryside and return to Phnom Penh.

The order to retreat to the capital, issued by Paul Reddcliffe, the British Ambassador, has caused outrage among many British-funded aid agencies, which fear that the Cambodian peace process, as well as the country's poor, will suffer if their projects are delayed. The ruling was issued in the aftermath of the abduction and killing by embattled Khmer Rouge guerrillas

last year of three young Britons in two incidents. The decision to review the edict was taken after a meeting in London on Thursday between Tony Baldry, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, Overseas Development Administration officials, and aid agency heads, including representatives of Oxfam, Save the Children, Voluntary Service Overseas, and Help the Aged. The Government is to announce its final decision on Tuesday.

Justin Byworth, Asia programme officer for World Vision UK, one of the agencies affected, said yesterday: "We were extremely concerned and we are pleased that, in our meeting with the Foreign Office and the ODA, they expressed their willingness to review

the situation." World Vision UK runs two projects in Cambodia — one in Battambang city and one in the countryside in Kompong Tralach — which provide healthcare for 50,000 people using a hospital and clinics. The ODA is due to pay half the £100,000 costs of running the schemes this year unless the funding is withdrawn.

Ruth Ashe, 35, a nurse who runs World Vision UK's Battambang project, said yesterday she wanted to continue working in the provinces, even if the ruling is upheld. "I have been here two and a half years and the security situation has worsened. But it is not like Grozny. All the aid agencies have a good security co-ordinating system, with 24-hour UN radios. We

pay attention to all local reports and do not venture out if we think it is dangerous. We are not stupid. If it were that bad we would pull out. The ruling was devastating. Our project is in a very needy area and the people who would suffer are the worst off. To leave would undermine everything we have done."

A senior Cambodian security official, meanwhile, confirmed the defection of the most senior Khmer Rouge official yet from the Maoist-inspired insurgent faction. Sar Kim Lamouth, the Khmer Rouge's equivalent of finance minister, came over to the government side in early November, but his change of allegiance had been kept secret.

Setback for Hekmatyar

Kabul: Fighters of the militant Afghan student movement, Taleban, captured the provincial capital of Maidan Shahr yesterday, driving out forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami party.

Muhammad Rabbani, the Taleban leader, said his fighters had launched a second attack on the town, the capital of Wardak province, at midnight and captured the town by 2am. Hezb-i-Islami had repulsed an earlier fierce Taleban attack on the strategic town, about 18 miles south of Kabul, on Tuesday. However, Izatollah Noon, the local Hezb-i-Islami garrison commander, said later he was prepared to negotiate with the attacking student militants.

Maidan Shahr is a strategic centre on the main road to Kabul, the Afghan capital, from the south. It sits on an open valley with snow-capped mountains on either side.

With their control of the town, the Taleban force will be poised to continue on to Kabul or turn east to increase pressure on Hezb-i-Islami's headquarters at Charasyab in the next valley. (Reuters)

Kobe cat Ugly rescued from quake rubble

Tokyo: Moving from under a shattered factory led workers to a cat which they pulled out of rubble 21 days after the earthquake that devastated much of Kobe in western Japan last month.

Workers were clearing debris from the factory on Tuesday when they heard the weak call of a trapped cat, Toshiro Moriuchi, a Kobe veterinary surgeon, said yesterday. But the cat, named Busu,

or Ugly, had to wait several more hours as workers removed iron plates and bars by acetylene torch to reach it.

The cat's right paw needs to be amputated because it was crushed between a locker and a sawing machine in the earthquake on January 17. Mr Moriuchi said. The tortoiseshell cat is being nursed back to health so that it can survive the surgery. The cat's owner, the

president of the factory firm, was said to have been a quake survivor.

Volunteers are also caring for pets rescued from the rubble which lost their owners in the disaster. The quake killed at least 5,296 people and destroyed tens of thousands of buildings. A week ago, a six-month-old golden retriever, weak but otherwise well, was rescued from the rubble. (AP)

Japanese confess to vivisection of PoWs

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

SIX veterans of Unit 731, the germ warfare experimentation group of the Japanese Army in the Second World War, yesterday broke a 50-year silence about their participation in gruesome experiments on live prisoners of war.

The men publicly confessed their involvement in the experiments and recounted their experiences in a booklet. "Only once did I use the scalpel on a living prisoner of war, to open his chest, a 72-year-old former army doctor said. He admitted, however, that he had witnessed a number of other vivisections conducted on PoWs in the unit's facilities in Manchuria.

"The dissections were sometimes conducted on fully conscious people without anaesthetic. Their screaming was terrifying, but their voices would die away," he said.

Unit 731 was active in China, primarily in Manchuria, in the years leading up to and including the war. Army doctors conducted secret experiments, including injecting deadly diseases, vivisection, and partially freezing live victims, mainly Chinese, Russians and Mongolians.

Some of the germ warfare experiments were conducted on the local population. Takeo Wano, 71, a former medical orderly, said that army physicians contaminated local wells with deadly germs under the pretence of carrying out water tests. Mr Wano, who participated in the experiments, said he only found out the real purpose of the water test after the war.

The macabre research activities of Unit 731 remained secret in the immediate post-war period, even during the Tokyo war crime trials. Historians say that the knowledge gathered by the unit was considered so valuable by American commanders at the time that many of the doctors responsible for the experiments were allowed to go free in exchange for their data.

China child policy 'disaster'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S policy of one child per family is collapsing, with disastrous consequences, according to population experts.

Marcus Feldman, of Stanford University in California, says that because of traditional preference for boys and the pressures of the one-child policy, the abortion of female foetuses and the killing of infant girls will lead to 110 men of marriageable age for every 100 women within 25 years.

Writing in the *Science* journal, he states that sonic imaging and amniocentesis are being used by Chinese to determine the gender of foetuses and to abort them if they are female. The Peking

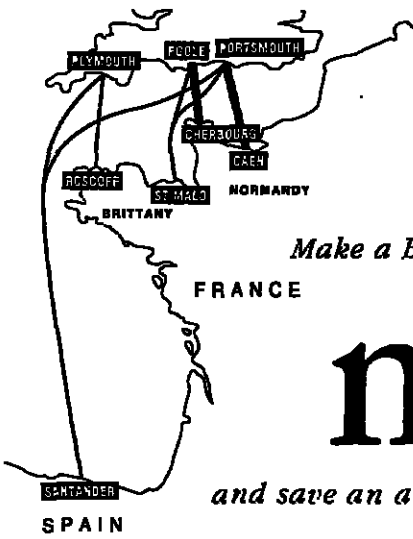
Government has recently banned the use of ultrasound machines for gender determination, but an estimated 10,000 have been introduced into the country since 1979, and peasants pay heavily to ensure they will have sons. It has been estimated that 97.5 per cent of abortions are performed on female foetuses.

Professor Feldman says the increasing shortage of women, which is already acute in many parts of China, will lead to more prostitution, much older marriages, and a decisive advantage for rich men who will be able to offer more money to prospective brides.

Chinese newspapers regularly report the abduction of women. Last December, 11 kidnappers were sentenced to be shot after they had taken

102 women, some of whom they raped before selling them in distant provinces to rich peasants. Two abducted women were recently imprisoned for attempting to murder their husbands. A newspaper recently published photographs of abandoned dead babies under the headline "Mothers, take back your daughters".

The population in China is surging because there are so many fertile women. The official Xinhua news agency reported last month that, over the next 35 years, China's population will rise from 1.2 billion to 1.63 billion. The country "can only support a population of 1.5 to 1.6 billion", Zhang Zhenghua, a deputy director of the Family Planning Commission, has said.



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Zedillo steps up fight to crush Mexican rebels

By DAVID ADAMS

MEXICAN troops reportedly pushed deep into rebel territory in the southern state of Chiapas yesterday after President Zedillo ordered a massive search to capture "Subcomandante Marcos" and named the masked Zapata leader of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

Señor Zedillo said on Thursday that the rebel chief's real name is Rafael Guillén Vicente, a well-educated man in his mid-thirties from a middle-class family in Tampico, Tamaulipas, on the northeastern border with America. Señor Zedillo ordered his arrest with other rebel leaders, and accused them of planning "new and greater acts of violence, not only in Chiapas but in other parts of the country."

Mexican officials said they had discovered caches of weapons and explosives at rebel safe houses in Mexico City and the eastern state of Veracruz. Troop movements

were reported yesterday around the town of San Cristóbal de las Casas, scene of the Zapatista uprising a year ago. Rebels declared a red alert in response to Señor Zedillo's announcement and said they had mined mountain paths and roads around their bases.

Experts said the President, who took office barely two months ago, was gambling on a quick victory to counter his weak and indecisive image and to lift national spirits during an economic crisis that has led to a dramatic rise in unemployment, dented savings, and caused a sudden rise in the cost of living.

The Zapatistas are no match for the Mexican Army, which has deployed about 15,000 troops in the state since the rebellion began in January last year. The rebels control the Lacandon rain forest, an almost impenetrable mountainous area in the east of the state, where they claim to have

several thousand lightly armed fighters.

Analysts said that if the army does not quickly capture the rebel leaders and disarm the Zapatista forces, Chiapas could face a prolonged conflict. In that event, the effect on an already battered Mexican stock market and the devalued peso could further undermine economic confidence among foreign investors on whom the country relies. That scenario is of particular concern to the Clinton Administration which last week put together a \$50 billion (£32.2 billion) loan package to help to stabilise the Mexican economy.

Community leaders sympathetic to the rebels called for international action to prevent civil war breaking out. Mgr Samuel Ruiz, the Bishop of San Cristóbal, urged the Government to rethink its actions. "No effort to negotiate a political solution can be as costly for Chiapas and the



A Mexican official compares a picture of Rafael Vicente with the masked Zapatista rebel leader, Marcos

country as the sufferings and destructive consequences of a military confrontation," he said.

Analysts said the Government's evidence of Zapatista plans to mount a campaign of terror may be exaggerated. The arms caches consisted of

six grenade-launchers, one Uzi sub-machinegun, two pistols, and a small quantity of explosives. Señor Zedillo's actions are probably motivated more by his political troubles and image problem than any security threat in Chiapas, which has been largely con-

tained for more than a year. The operation bears a striking similarity to a crackdown by Señor Zedillo's predecessor, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who in his early days in office won much-needed backing by arresting a corrupt and powerful oil-workers' union leader, Joaquín Hernández. "This is an attractive way for Zedillo to recuperate his lost image," said Lorenzo Meyer, a leading political commentator. "If it goes well, he will unite the conservative majority of the country behind him. But it's a big risk," he said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Russian leader to visit

London: Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, is coming to Britain next month for a three-day visit that is expected to cement London's close ties with Moscow despite the Chechen war (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Chernomyrdin will have talks with John Major and is to focus on the burgeoning trade relations between the two countries. The Russian leader is also expected in Britain in May to represent President Yeltsin at the 50th anniversary commemorations of VE-Day.

British link to bombing

New York: A British link to the World Trade Centre bombing emerged last night when it was disclosed that Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the accused mastermind, escaped from the United States using a Pakistani passport in the name of Abdul Basit, a former engineering student in Swansea (James Bone writes). Mr Yousef is an Iraqi who was captured in Pakistan. Welsh universities were checking last night to see if he is on their records.

New Cabinet for India

Delhi: P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Prime Minister, has retained Manmohan Singh, architect of the Government's economic reform programme, as Finance Minister in his new Cabinet. The ailing Dinesh Singh, who becomes a minister without portfolio, was replaced as Foreign Minister by Pranab Mukherjee, Commerce Minister in the outgoing Cabinet. (Reuters)

Sausage dogs

Rabat: Moroccan police have arrested a Casablanca butcher after they discovered that he was selling sausages which were stuffed with dog meat. The man had been advertising his wares as "spicy and delicious". (Reuters)

Family demands release of jailed Cuban general

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

THE family of a top Cuban general, jailed in 1989 for his alleged role in a drug trafficking scandal that rocked the country, is demanding his release after a United Nations human rights body declared that his trial was unlawful.

In a ruling made public this week, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, declared that the trial of General Patricio de la Guardia, 55, who was sentenced to 30 years in jail, was a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The UN group asked the Cuban Government "to take the necessary measures to remedy the situation."

"That can only mean one thing, that he be freed," said Jorge Masetti, who is married to Señora de la Guardia's niece, Ileana, a 30-year-old psychologist. Her father, Colonel Antonio (Tony) de la Guardia, was sentenced to death in the same trial and executed by firing squad with another top officer, General Arnaldo Ochoa. In all, four officers were executed and nine others jailed. The trial marked the greatest scandal in 30 years of revolutionary rule in Cuba.

For Ileana, the memory of her father lives on in a curious and doubly painful way. Her uncle, Patricio, is her father's identical twin. He is detained in virtual solitary confinement

in the prison of Güines, outside Havana. He is allowed to receive family visits every 21 days. Apparently his only distraction is painting.

Ileana, and relatives of the family in Cuba and the United States, have long claimed Patricio's innocence. They say that his trial and 30-year sentence were a legal farce.

The twins were among President Castro's most privileged and trusted officers, playing a key role in Cuba's international crusade to foment revolutionary movements across Latin America. Tony earned a reputation as a sort of Cuban James Bond when he was in

the Interior Ministry's elite special troops, shipping money and arms wherever Castro dictated.

Tony's mission was also tailored to Cuba's international economic predicament — the US trade embargo. Cuba developed ways around the embargo by ingenious, often illegal, schemes. Tony began dealing with Colombian drug cartels, offering to launder money through Cuba's tourist industry, which was desperately seeking cash to build hotels.

The de la Guardia family contends that when America found out, the Cuban Government did what it could to protect Castro, and the twins took the fall.

The twins were arrested on June 12, 1989, on the eve of their 51st birthday. Tony was executed a month later after the hastily arranged trial. Patricio was sentenced to 30 years in jail for not denouncing his brother.

In a letter smuggled out of prison a year later, Patricio said that the trial was staged. In return for leniency, he said, he had been told to plead guilty and avoid implicating more senior officials, even though his brother's drug deals had been approved "by the highest authorities in the country".



Antonio de la Guardia: executed in 1989



Bono: star of rival Republican gala

Clinton upstaged by grand old party

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THIS is a tale of two dinners that vividly illustrates how power has shifted in Washington since the Republicans seized control of Congress.

For the first time in memory, a White House state dinner was rivalled on Thursday night by another event of perhaps greater allure in this status-conscious capital.

Admittedly some of the black limousines clogging Washington's streets were heading for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, where President Clinton was honouring Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor. But the majority were heading for the Washington Convention Centre and a \$1,000-a-plate Republican black-tie dinner. The event raised \$11 million (£7.1 million), making it the single biggest fundraiser in American history.

The White House dinner was described by social commentators as "restrained and low-key", the guest list "sober". The 126 invitees were politicians, diplomats and businessmen, with hardly a celebrity or film star to lighten the mix. The only memorable joke was Mr Clinton's observation that his long-serving German counterpart — and fellow trencherman — had visited Washington so many times that "on his last trip here he took me to his favourite restaurant".

A few blocks away at the Convention Centre there were 4,100 guests and, by contrast, an atmosphere of riotous exuberance. There was a victory parade of all the Republican Governors, Senators and Congressmen who triumphed last November. Behind the head table was a 120ft replica of the Capitol, now in Republican hands for the first time in 40 years.

The White House guests were entertained by Tony Bennett, the veteran crooner, the Republicans by the far more glamorous Natalie Cole as four giant screens offered close-up views of Nat King Cole's celebrated daughter, Sonny Bono, the former singer and actor and now a California congressman, also graced the party.

"It's a grand night for the Grand Old Party," proclaimed Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman. If the party did not have such an embarrassment of leaders "we could have called it a coronation," declared Trent Lott, the Senate Whip.

Shorter US primary season drives all but richest away

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DAN QUAYLE'S abrupt withdrawal from the 1996 presidential contest triggered a race yesterday among the remaining Republican contenders to woo his religious Right base, and has increased the chances of Pete Wilson, California's Governor, entering the contest.

Phil Gramm, the Texas senator, declared he was the only true conservative left and swiftly announced his implacable opposition to Henry Foster, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon-General who has aroused conservative enmity by admitting performing abortions.

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee governor and Education Secretary, claimed he was now the one true Washington "outsider" seeking the Republican nomination, the only other heavy-

weight contender being Robert Dole, the Senate leader.

Mr Wilson no longer denies he will be a candidate and is now said to be tilting towards running. Given his California base, he is probably the only Republican aside from the three main runners who could raise the necessary funds in time. William Weld, the Massachusetts Governor, indicated on Thursday that he would run if Mr Wilson did not.

A Gallup poll yesterday showed 55 per cent of Americans did not believe President Clinton should seek re-election, and that Mr Dole would beat Mr Clinton by 51 to 44 per cent.

Mr Quayle insisted he was withdrawing to spare his family the rigours of yet another arduous campaign, but Republican insiders said the real reason was the former Vice-

President's inability to win the backing of the big donors.

Mr Quayle is the fourth prominent Republican to withdraw for financial reasons, the others being former Cabinet Secretaries Jack Kemp, Richard Cheney and William Bennett and South Carolina's former Governor Carroll Campbell.

Their departures illustrate how the race has been changed by the decision of California and New York to bring forward their primaries, effectively condensing the season into a mere seven weeks. Candidates must now raise a minimum \$20 million (£13 million) — roughly \$50,000 a day — before the season starts. They can no longer bank on an early victory in Iowa or New Hampshire to generate funds because there will not be time.

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Sudanese rebels hold foreign aid workers hostage

FROM SAM KILEY IN NATINGA, SOUTHERN SUDAN

FIVE foreign aid workers were being held hostage yesterday by a splinter group of southern Sudanese rebels after they were captured when the town in which they were working was attacked. The rebels, former members of the South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM), released six other relief workers taken earlier this week. The hostages were held for 24 hours after the United Nations bartered for their freedom with food. The SSIM, which split from the Sudan People's Liberation Army in 1991, said yesterday that it would seek a reconciliation with the SPLA. Sally Burnheim, a spokeswoman for the UN's Operation Lifeline Sudan, said yesterday that the five hostages and their captors had been spotted moving north of the village of Puluruk. "Radio contact was established and

the hostages are OK," Miss Burnheim said. "But the intentions of the kidnappers are not clear." She declined to give names and nationalities until next of kin were informed. "The hostages are all well and haven't been mistreated, but, at least until yesterday, we know they had been without food and water for more than 30 hours."

Southern rebels, claiming to be fighting for independence or regional autonomy for southern Sudan from the Islamic fundamentalist regime in the north, have kidnapped and killed foreign aid workers in their areas over the past four years. At least one part of the much-splintered SPLA, led by Colonel John Garang, is trying to improve its image after widespread criticism from the West for human rights abuses. This may be mainly in the hope of regain-

ing credibility and winning support from Western countries as the north prepares to launch its annual dry-season offensive.

In Natinga, close to the Ugandan border, its guerrillas displayed prisoners of war, some captured six years ago, as proof that they had not executed all of them, as claimed by human rights groups.

"The rebels share what food they have with us. We eat well when they have food, and not so well when they suffer too," said Colonel Nazadeed Hommud, a former government military commander.

The West, including America and Britain, Sudan's former colonial master, has been slow to show support for the rebels because of their persistent factional fighting, and a disregard for the well-being of their supporters in the south. However, if the SPLA can improve its image, the West may yet view it as a bulwark against Khartoum's desire to spread Islam across the Horn of Africa into Uganda and Ethiopia.

The rebels from the SPLA mainstream, loyal to Colonel Garang, have suffered badly from splits among their leadership which started in 1991. Gordon Koang Banyipiny, who led the troops who kidnapped the aid workers in Upper Nile province, was once an SPLA officer and appears now to be operating as a freelance bandit.

Since 1991, Colonel Garang's followers have emerged as the only southern rebels who are not being supported by Khartoum. Most of his fighting has been against former members of his inner circle, who lead their own armies and operate as proxy divisions for the Khartoum Government. As a result, the SPLA has lost its grip on Upper Nile province and is fighting to keep hold of Eastern Equatoria.

Prisoner returns to his cell as President

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON MANDELA yesterday returned to Robben Island, where he spent 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment. This time he was accompanied by 1,300 admirers, former fellow prisoners and other political and civic dignitaries of the new South Africa.

A huge circus tent was pitched in the centre of the island for lunch, and the President, once the world's most famous political prisoner, reminded people that many of the island's former denizens were not at all well known. All the same, he said, they had helped to shape South Africa's history.

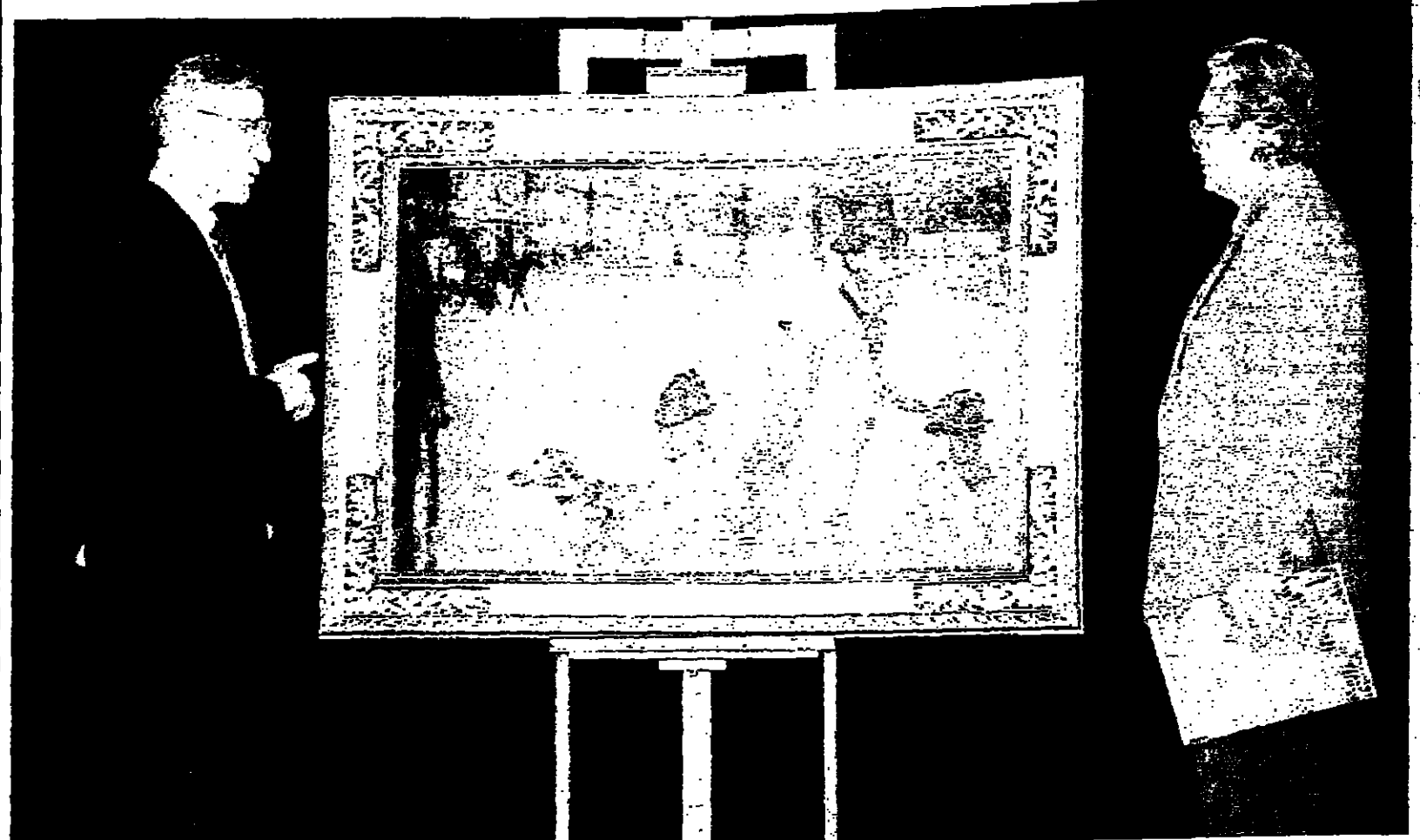
One of the more famous of his former colleagues, Govan Mbeki, a veteran Communist who was jailed with Mr

Mandela in the so-called Rivonia trial in 1964, and whose son Thabo is the President's first deputy and heir-apparent, welcomed the visitors, and pointed out that not everything was bad on the island: many illiterate prisoners had received academic and political education there.

For the island tourists there were visits to B-block, where Mr Mandela and the rest of the African National Congress high command were held. They also visited the beach where the prisoners had gathered seaweed, and were, according to the President's autobiography, were glad to be close to the sea with a view of Table Mountain and the possibility of varying their diet with seafood stew.

Hermitage defiant over German claims to masterpieces

ALEXANDER DEMYANCHUK/REUTERS



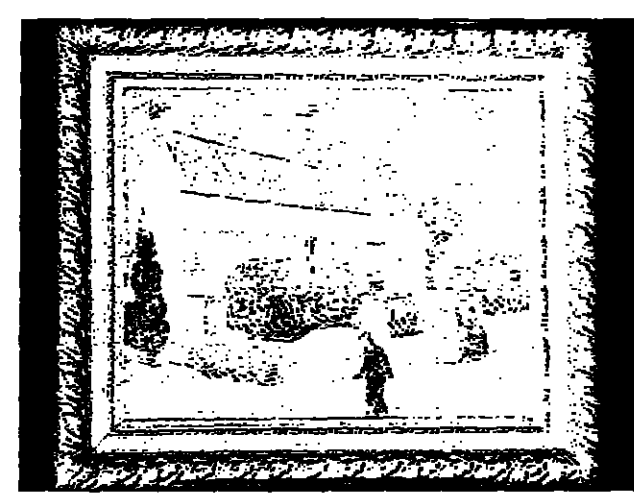
Albert Kostenovich, left, the Hermitage Museum's chief researcher, and Mikhail Piotrovsky, its director, admire Degas' *Place de la Concorde*. Below left is Van Gogh's *La Maison Blanche* and, right, Gauguin's *Piti Teina*. The three pictures go on show next month

Russia puts treasures on display

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THREE of the masterpieces from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, whose priceless collection of 74 canvasses was kept secret until last week, are to be put on display next month.

Visitors will be able to view Degas' *Place de la Concorde*, Van Gogh's *La Maison Blanche* and Gauguin's *Piti Teina*. The collection, which was seized by Red Army soldiers during the Second World War and brought back to Russia, was kept secret until the museum was given permission to open the "Hidden Treasures Revealed" exhibition. The works, which



include 15 Renoirs, four Van Goghs and a Picasso sketch, were taken from the private collections of three Berlin families in 1945.

Although the pictures have been claimed by the descendants of the original German owners, Mikhail Piotrovsky, the Hermitage Museum's director, said that until a



settlement had been agreed they were "not going anywhere".

The Russians claim that they seized art works in Germany as compensation for national treasures plundered by the invading Nazis, which included an entire 18th-century amber chamber in a St Petersburg palace.

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Illustrious Chancellor's widow unnerves Social Democrats with rattle of Cold War skeletons

Brandt papers revive spy claims

A 48-YEAR-OLD German widow with a taste for mini-skirts has just resigned from the Social Democratic Party and has promptly become the chief talking point of the political class in Bonn. The furor is only partly explained by the fact that the woman, Brigitte Seebacher, was married to Willy Brandt, the late, great Social Democrat Chancellor.

Frau Seebacher, a formidable polemicist, is accusing her party of a serious espionage cover-up and is giving a warning that, if even half of the currently circulating spy stories are true, the whole history of *Ostpolitik* will have to be rewritten. Little wonder that there was not a wet eye in the

BONN FILE
by ROGER BOYES



and his smoking, and put some order in to his chaotic working days.

She also controlled access to the former Chancellor, famously sending Mikhail Gorbachev packing when

he rang on the entryphone to their small house in Unkel, near Bonn. As Brandt's cancer ate him up, Frau Seebacher nursed him and became the guardian of her husband's autobiographical notes.

One such note has caused the present scandal. After a conversation with Valentin Falin, one of Russia's best experts on Germany, Brandt returned home and wrote that "since 1975, Karl W. committed himself to working for the services over there". "W." was undoubtedly Karl Wienand, aide to Brandt's far-from-trusting Social Democrat colleague Herbert Wehner. Herr Wienand, in hospital with heart problems at the moment, is awaiting trial for alleged KGB activities. He denies that he was an agent.

Mr Falin also denies that he made such a specific accusation. But Frau Seebacher is in no doubt. She is sure, and has said

many times in public, that the man at the side of Herbert Wehner was an agent. The irony is complete since it was the crusty Herr Wehner who pushed Brandt to resign in 1974 because of the discovery of the East German spy, Günter Guillaume.

Frau Seebacher, a quiet-spoken woman, has been infected with some of her late husband's bitterness about the way he was levered out of power. Three Social Democrat politicians — Egon Bahr, who helped develop *Ostpolitik* with her husband, the Bavarian politician, Hans Joachim Vogel, and the current Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Johannes Rau — knew about the KGB suspicion, yet they did nothing. Frau Seebacher would like to know why.

She claims that she is doing more than fighting a campaign on behalf of her late husband. She has uncovered a secret dimension in the shaping of East-West relations that has yet to be fully registered in the history books. Bonn, East Berlin and Moscow were communicating with each other through a web of spy contacts that competed with, rather than complemented, normal diplomatic channels.



Seebacher: uncovered new dimension to Germany's *Ostpolitik*

Kinkel's guide to loving

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister who is worried that his Free Democratic Party will collapse again in local elections in Hesse next week, has been canvassing for the female vote.

It is difficult to imagine Douglas Hurd, his British counterpart, being quite so candid. His wife, Herr Kinkel said in a remarkable interview, was his first and only girlfriend and he would not be able to cope if she committed adultery. "It would be unthinkable for my wife and I, and I would simply not be able to stomach it," he said.

However, he had to concentrate hard to remember the last time that he told his wife that he loved her. It must have been, he said, after a longish pause, on New Year's Eve 1993. 94. We look forward to similar confessions from members of the British Cabinet.

UN grows to get smaller

The UN bureaucracy needs to be cut down to size. Almost everyone can agree with that. And a German seems the appropriate person to do the job since Bonn has become one of the largest (and most prompt) contributors to the United Nations budget. Some eyebrows, however, are being raised about the decision to choose Karl Paschke, a diplomat, for this delicate job. Not known for his modest lifestyle, Dr Paschke's first move has been to expand the UN cost-cutting staff by more than a third.

Russian proves hottest of loaves

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

IGOR KUSELTAN, a biologist, says he knows from experience that his bread helps make men more potent. He has tried it himself.

"It definitely helps. I cannot say that you feel a change immediately, but after ten or 11 days you feel the effect," the Russian said yesterday. "When a man's sexual energy starts to fade, a change in diet often helps."

The bread, baked to a recipe that includes wheat germ, low-fat milk powder, sugar and butter, was presented to journalists and Moscow shopowners. "We keep the germ of the grain in the bread," said Mr Kuseltan, 74, who looks 20 years younger. "The germ is rich in vitamin E, which increases sexual energy in human beings."

Mr Kuseltan said he first hit on the idea of special breads in 1972 when he was conducting research at Moscow's Academy of Medical Sciences. Female laboratory assistants noticed that mice and rats fed on a "full-ration diet", including wheat germ and powdered milk, had sleek fur and bright eyes, and some of the workers said they wanted to try the formula.

To help them, Mr Kuseltan developed a recipe for oat-wheat bread but, because of Soviet-era restrictions on private business, never started baking it. Twenty years later, the bread is being produced by Mr Kuseltan's company, Bioproduct. The firm now produces bread a tonne at a time — 4,000 loaves — and sells them in local shops for 1,000 roubles (20p) a 9oz loaf, more than twice the price of ordinary loaf.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll call to African dictators

Paris: A United Nations conference yesterday urged unelected African leaders to go to the polls within two years and asked the international community to withhold aid from dictatorships.

The call came at the end of the meeting in Paris attended by about 500 people, including African government officials. A conference document said the continent had been responsible for "countless failures" since independence, but could rapidly recover if it united and built democracy. (Reuters)

Truce refused

Lima: President Fujimori of Peru rejected Ecuador's request for a truce for both sides to collect their dead from 15 days of fighting in their border dispute. He said it was a ploy to gain advantage. (Reuters)

Tomb claim

Cairo: An archaeologist has said she has found the entrance to Alexander the Great's burial chamber in an oasis, 450 miles west of Cairo. Digging has been delayed by underground water. (AFP)

Ex-MP held

Bangkok: A court has remanded in custody Thanong Siripreechapong, a former Thai MP, until an extradition hearing over a drug trafficking charge in the United States. (Reuters)

Off the wall

Paris: Three French towns have banned posters for *Disclosure*, the film about sexual harassment starring Michael Douglas and Demi Moore, because they were too sexually explicit. (Reuters)

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Is Clarke the only brave Tory?

The Chancellor was right: it would be folly to risk being left on the sidelines of Europe, writes the Leader of the Opposition

Kenneth Clarke's speech to the European Movement on Thursday night was a defining moment in this Parliament. It was billed as a speech that would glue together the two wings of a divided party. It was billed too, by the Prime Minister no less, as a speech that would lay out new criteria — over and above those in the Maastricht treaty — which would need to be met before Britain could consider joining a single currency.

It did neither of these things. The reaction of the Euro-sceptic wing of the party to Mr Major's hopes that his Chancellor would paper over the cracks for a little while longer. Indeed, Michael Portillo's reaction suggests the gulf in the Cabinet has widened. The "new" conditions appeared to be convergence in the real economy in terms of growth and unemployment, a position close to Labour's.

Mr Clarke has had a good deal of predictable Euro-sceptic opprobrium poured over his head. He deserves credit, however, for having the courage to say what he thinks, and not to blow in the wind.

His stance may be at odds with much of the Conservative Party. He is right, however, in insisting that Britain must not risk becoming marginalised in Europe and that the single currency debate should concentrate on the serious economic and political arguments rather than factional infighting.

It is tempting for this whole



TONY BLAIR

debate to be seen as a Tory party pantomime, in which both the central characters and arguments have become caricatures. Kenneth Clarke's speech was inevitably part of that pantomime, as he would recognise, but it was also an attempt to make this a more serious debate, and should be welcomed for that.

Looked at from the narrow party political perspective, the current row may be a benefit to Labour. We ourselves know that the public are wary of divided parties. They do not trust them. If they sense that a party's leaders are more interested in holding that party together than they are in leading the country, that party will fall into disrepute.

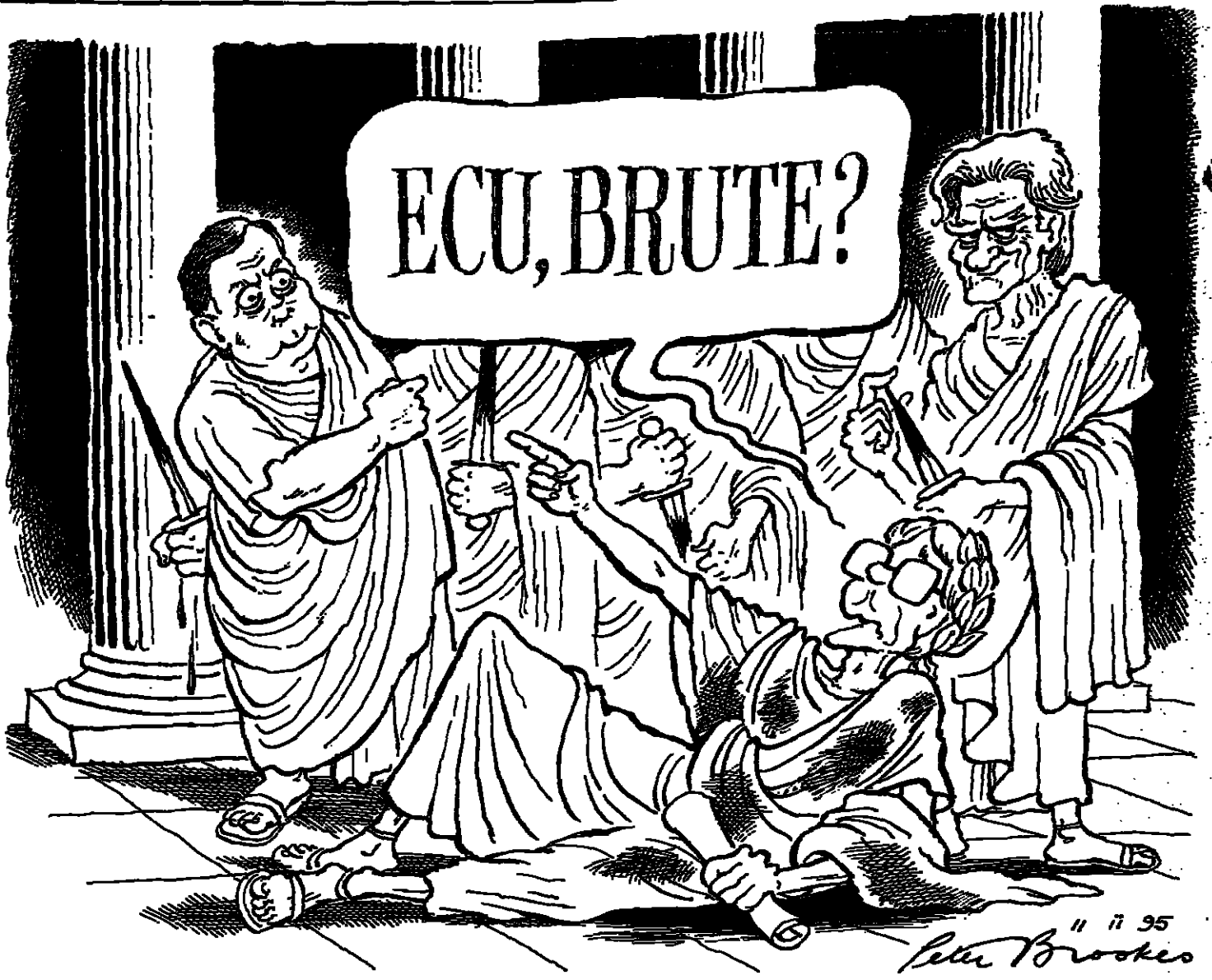
It is true that there has been a shift in public mood on Europe. Each step towards closer European co-operation must be the subject of thought and persuasion. Political élites cannot take unquestioning popular support for granted. The ERM experience has left scars. To lock economies together in a single currency area, if there is significant

divergence in their underlying performance, would indeed risk instability and unemployment.

But I am clear about the direction in which I wish to lead the Labour Party. If convergence can be achieved, and if other countries go ahead with a single currency, it would be folly not to recognise the dangers of exclusion. In principle, if there is such real convergence, then clearly there could be benefits to our participation given the increasingly global nature of the economy in which we live. My guess — and it is only that — is that a single currency among any European countries is unlikely by 1997, possible by the end of the century and probable at some point in the not-too-distant future after that.

Of course, the final decision is not for now. But determining the principles that will govern that decision is, indeed, the institutions and procedures are being decided now. If Britain rules itself out of constructive engagement in that debate, it will find, as so many times in the history of our relations with Europe, that at some later stage we may want to join after others have determined the agenda and set the rules.

I am not in the least dewy-eyed either about Europe or about its institutions. There are serious challenges facing both. But I know this country's future lies in Europe, and I want us to lead in Europe and play a strong and decisive role in shaping its future.



In reality the debate in the Tory party is not simply about a single currency, it is about Britain and a vision of its future. That is why it is so fundamental. Their centre of gravity has shifted dangerously. How could they, if re-elected, ever represent Britain in Europe when the discussions on the introduction of single currency get fully under way? It would be a nightmare. Britain's foreign policy would effectively be paralysed. That is the

fear written all over Kenneth Clarke's speech.

It was only two years ago that he was telling me across the floor of the House that my views on Europe were "indistinguishable" from his. Until recently, we thought we knew where the Foreign Secretary stood too. Now he declares himself to be an "agnostic", even on the question of whether there could be benefits in a single currency if real convergence existed. This indicates the

dangers of sub-contracting foreign policy to the Euro-sceptic wing of the party whose programme, published a couple of weeks ago, would effectively mean British withdrawal from Europe.

In his heart, I believe the Prime Minister may be in the Clarke camp. Remember it was Mr Major who took us into the ERM and, less than two years ago, talked of Britain at the heart of Europe. But now he is the chief hostage in a

guerrilla war within his party. His solution is to raise Aunt Sallies such as the risks of rampant Euro-federalism, or an imminent single currency, in an unconvincing attempt to appear tough in knocking them down. This is indicative of the sterile debate to which the Chancellor rightly objects. Britain deserves better. Mr Clarke was right to call for a sensible and open debate. It is one in which the Labour Party intends fully to participate.

Timothy Garton Ash on a fading memory from 1945

What is most remarkable about this anniversary is how far it has gone unremarked.

Every previous round anniversary of Yalta has seen a spate of articles, and invariably, controversy. On the tenth anniversary, James Cameron found Washington "grappling with a sort of new Crimean War" sparked off by the publication of the American records of the conference. The thirtieth anniversary brought dire warnings that the signature of the Helsinki Final Act would be a super-Yalta. The fortieth anniversary saw furious Soviet-American polemics, with the American columnist George F. Will denouncing "four decades of fraud".

It was not just the anniversaries. Every new crisis in Eastern Europe brought a new Yalta debate. When the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the Prague Spring in 1968, General de Gaulle blamed it on Yalta. When martial law was declared in Poland in 1981, Helmut Schmidt pointed to Yalta, while François Mitterrand declared that we must "sortir de Yalta". And every time the subject came up in Britain, Lord Gladwyn or Sir Frank Roberts wrote to *The Times* to explain how the British at Yalta had made the best of a bad job.

Yalta without end, it seemed. And now, at the half-century, nothing. Not even a letter to *The Times*. The reason is obvious: we no longer live in the Europe of Yalta. The east-west division of Europe which we knew in shorthand as Yalta softly and suddenly passed away, in the space of a single year, from autumn 1989 to autumn 1990. So Yalta has become history in a way that it was not for 45 years until the end of the Cold War.

A lesson to learn from Yalta

musical. But in the early 1970s a musical entitled *Yalta Yalta* was staged in Zagreb. Its opening lines were "In February 1945 the leaders of the three great powers met at Yalta to divide the world."

This perfectly summarises the central Yalta myth: that endlessly potent image of the three old men carving up the world like a plum pudding. Historians have long since shown that the truth was — unsurprisingly — a great deal more complicated. Military and political decisions made earlier in the war were more important in determining the fate of central and Eastern Europe.

For Poland, the conference at Tehran in 1943 was probably more fateful. Indeed, Churchill did actually try at Yalta to make up some of the ground which had been explicitly or implicitly conceded before. In the section of the final communiqué devoted to Poland, the abandonment of the legitimate Government-in-exile in London and the effective recognition of the Communist provisional Government imposed by Moscow was hedged about with a convoluted formula about the "inclusion of democratic leaders from Poland itself and from Poles abroad". And the new Government was to be "pledged to the holding of free and unfettered elections as soon as possible on the basis of universal suffrage and secret ballot". The final communiqué also contained a grandiloquent Declaration on Liberated Europe, committing the three governments to help "liberated peoples" everywhere to create "democratic institutions of their own choice".

But did this make things better or worse? It is true that on the basis of

such passages some opposition leaders in Eastern Europe in the 1980s would call on Moscow not to abrogate but simply to implement the Yalta agreement. At the time, however, it gave what the Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski has well called an "ambiguous legitimacy" to the ruthless imposition of Soviet rule on Poland, and elsewhere. The Poles, and others, were not merely to have their hopes of independence and democratic self-government dashed; they were to have them dashed in the name of independence and self-government. This made it worse.

In the interests of keeping together the wartime alliance, reaching agreement on an orderly occupation of Germany, bringing the Soviet Union into the war against Japan and into the new United Nations, of which Roosevelt had such high hopes, the West papered over the cracks with words too important to be used for such a purpose — independence, freedom, democracy — and thus became an accessory to the crime. As so often, Churchill found the best phrase. Writing to Roosevelt less than a month later, he observed that if the liquidations and deportations and "all the rest of the game of setting up a totalitarian regime" in Poland continued, then "it will soon be seen by the world that you and I by putting our signatures to the Crimea settlement have under-written a fraudulent prospectus".

Here, I think, is a lesson of Yalta that outlasts the Cold War. There will continue to be times and regions in which the major powers of the West are not able or not willing to prevent the imposition of dictatorship by force and fraud, the expulsion of ethnic minorities, the new partitioning of territories. Back in the heady days of 1990 we fondly hoped that this might no longer be the case inside Europe itself. What has happened in the former Yugoslavia has quickly proved that hope to be vain. But at least, at the very least, we should not again allow ourselves to give the appearance of legitimacy, even an ambiguous legitimacy, to the triumph of force and fraud. No *Yalta Yalta* should not be revived in Zagreb, nor in Belgrade, and least of all in Sarajevo.

Teresa Gorman and Sir Sandy Wilson, though foolish, deserve some sympathy

It's been a wonderful week for the property columns. "Bijou converted Tudoresque manor in upmarket Essex. Would suit whipless Tory lady MP hounded by hostile Labour council. Taste for pewter mugs, fake beams and inglenooks an advantage." Or perhaps you would prefer a Gloucestershire property, within lens-and-bugging range of royalty.

"Edwardian neo-Queen Anne in style, with extensive stabling and grounds. Ideal for ambitious Air Chief Marshal with scrambled egg on his chest and a weakness for pelicans."

Few sights are so gratifying as that of the great and good on banana skins. Teresa Gorman and Sir Sandy Wilson are humble servants of yours truly. They have drawn the taxpayer's shilling, tossed it in the air and found it has heads on both sides. When rumpled, they adopt a look of pained innocence and cry scapegoat and foul. The Gormans face legal action and even prison for altering their historic house without permission. Sir Sandy, heir to the tradition of Bader and Cheshire, was yesterday shot down for extravagance. His plane cartwheelled into the drink, spewing Westminster and chintz.

Why do they do it? Sir Sandy and his wife clearly thought they had struck gold. The RAF's Haynes Garth mansion had Air Chief Marshal written all over it. The roof and ground floor needed renovation. Mr Rifkind offered £380,000 for the job, with £60,000 for curtains, carpets and "window treatments". The MoD's cost-watchers passed this as state-of-the-art kit, vital for the punishing hospitality missions flown by the modern airman. As Sir Sandy's mentor, Captain Yossarian, would have pointed out, you would have to be mad to fly such missions and not take a free house and £380,000 into the bargain. He forgot Yossarian's Catch-22. Taking them would equally be seen as a sign of madness — if it got out.

I have some sympathy for Sir Sandy. The system he was using is rotten to the core. The public sector is currently incapable of setting anything that would pass for a standard of behaviour to the rest of the nation. MPs last year gave themselves a pay rise of double the inflation rate. When accused of

The Catch-22 of home improvement

taking bribes, they laughed it off. On Thursday top civil servants stunned all-comers by taking a leaf from the gas and electricity executives' book. They demanded and gracefully granted themselves something called "performance-related" rises of up to 27 per cent. The phrase "performance-related" of the pay of a Whitehall official is wholly meaningless. Civil servants merely want what the utilities executives have got. They know to take their moment when a Prime Minister is nervous and a Chancellor does not care how much embarrassment he causes the Government. Nobody on earth has the power to stop them.

Those in Sir Sandy Wilson's position are less lucky. His grade of officer was this week awarded just 3.2 per cent (junior ranks must perform equally well on 2.6 per cent). Meanwhile their perks are spread all over the public press. They might be less noticeable were it not for the services' incessant whinging that they are short of cash. Destroyers are putting to sea with dummy torpedoes. Training flights are cancelled for lack of fuel. Yet ministers have had to defend personal cooks for 100 senior officers, fountaining expeditions for cavalrymen, a corps of gardeners, valets and drivers to service 77 luxury officers' homes.

Ministers cannot pretend they know nothing of this systematic perk abuse, which Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, is too weak-kneed to end. All he can do is wait for *The Daily Telegraph* to publish details, leak that he is

"livid" and sack the first person named in the story. This puts an appalling burden on *The Daily Telegraph*. It becomes sole arbiter of what is and is not proper defence expenditure. Perhaps Mr Rifkind might avoid trouble by sending his annual budget round to Conrad Black for prior approval.

The most outrageous feature of the Wilson affair is not the waste — such sums are wasted in Whitehall every week — but that the final whistle was blown not by the defence ministry but by a firm of accountants, KPMG Peat Marwick, whose Sheila Masters charged a cool £100,000. It is a growing habit of the Civil Service to duck accountability by delegating tough jobs to the private sector. £100,000 to describe a £380,000 decorating bill as too high and assign blame is inexcusable. In a more courageous age this job would have been done by a junior official in a week. We are not told which official authorised this grotesque sum, or if he is on "performance-related" pay.

Teresa Gorman's residential embarrassments may prove equally expensive. They were brought to light by her own hand. She wrote a letter to the *Daily Mail* complaining about petty-fogging officialdom. She had "restored" her Tudor house in an Essex Tudorbethan style and was being hounded from pillar to post by Thurrock Council. Despite her conservationist efforts, the council was accusing her of 60 breaches of planning regulations and threaten-

ing fines, demolition, even imprisonment.

Like Sir Sandy, Mrs Gorman finds herself in the grip of a system not of her making. On all sides, racketeers are wrecking historic buildings without planning permission. Meanwhile honest citizens seeking to rehabilitate the nation's heritage are subject to trivial interference. The Gormans acquired a dump and have made it a handsome home. They inserted "authentic" medieval features, including mullioned windows, fake beams and inglenooks. The Bard himself would feel at home in the place. If officialdom is to quibble over every stick of wood or patch of mortar, old buildings will simply fall down and Britain become a land of Wates-built semis.

Here too I have sympathy with the victim. There is a maddening pedantry about planning control, including over the interiors and materials of historic buildings. To see planners fussing over a detail of an old house, while its setting is ruined by a hideous petrol station or villa estate next door is bound to enrage the hard-pressed homeowner. Modern development control sometimes cannot see the wood for the trees — which is not to say it should abandon the trees.

But this defence is not open to Mrs Gorman. She said that she and her husband had been "too busy" to seek planning permission. What sort of excuse is that? Parliament decrees listed building control. Mrs Gorman is a Member of Parliament. She could have argued her alterations with the planners, and gone to appeal if she disagreed with their verdict. When MPs disregard the law, they set a bad example for those wrestling to enforce it, not to mention those who decide to obey it. That mighty inquisition of public taste, Thurrock District Council, must clearly do its duty and force the Gormans to make changes, if only as a warning to others.

The most fitting comment on this ludicrous week would be Mrs Gorman to throw a lifeline to Sir Sandy. He is out of work, and clearly a dab hand at interior design. If the councillors of Thurrock are not keen on Gormanian neo-Tudor, perhaps they could be seduced by Wilsonian neo-Queen Anne. It will not come cheap.

Simon Jenkins

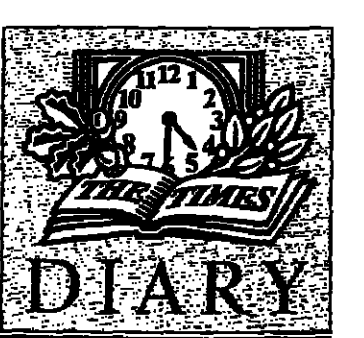
Byter bit

A POLITICALS student gossiping on the Internet has fallen foul of Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary. He made defamatory comments about the minister and a Cabinet colleague while talking to fellow computer buffs on the worldwide computer network.

Someone, on some computer somewhere, was monitoring the "conversation" and the unfortunate chap is in hot water. A libel action would make legal history.

A stiff letter from Lilley's office has landed on the desk of Professor Alan Watson, Vice Chancellor of Leeds University. "They were not pleased," says a university spokeswoman. "They wanted to point out that people should not use the Internet for this kind of thing and could be subject to libel."

The university traced the student who had sent his comments into



"cyberspace" from a computer terminal at the university. A retraction of his comments was hastily sent out on the Internet along with an apology to the ministers concerned.

Lilley's office refused to comment yesterday but libel laws surrounding the Internet are vague. There is, as yet, no case history in this country but, with hundreds of

Golden age

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL Sir Sandy Wilson resigned yesterday after the improvement bill for his home came to £380,000. He would still be at his desk if he had lived in another age: there wasn't any penny-pinching among top brass in Victorian times.

Dr Andrew Lambert, a lecturer in war studies at the University of London, says well-off military leaders were generally able to kit out their troops themselves. "One naval First Lieutenant coated his ship, HMS *Albion*, with gold leaf and silver in 1843. The vessel became known as the *Gilded Toy Ship*. Perfect for peaceful Mediterranean cruises in the early 1840s, the tub was useless for warfare. It was stripped of all its decorations before joining the bombardment of

Sebastopol during the Crimean War.

● The canine world should brace itself for the latest invention for travelling pets: seat belts for dogs. Hi-Craft, the Liverpool-based manufacturer of the extendable dog lead, has invented harnesses to strap the beasts into the back seat.

NICE CAMOUFLAGE YES, IT'S A LARVA ASHLEY

Rocky meeting

ANDREW Neil comes in for a taste of his own interrogative medicine on Channel Four's *Right To Reply* this weekend. Viewers objected to the grilling he gave sports personality Fauna Whitbread recently on his chat show *Is This Your Life?*

Neil will be asked to justify himself by a couple of viewers and the programme's host, Roger Bolton. Could this be the Roger Bolton who was responsible for *Death on the Rock*, the television documentary about the SAS killings in Gibraltar which Neil relentlessly undermined in *The Sunday Times*?

Euro-silence

LIVELY behaviour can be expected once again from the Young Conservatives, gathering in Southport for their annual conference this weekend. Subjects to be debated include heritage, the constitution and even licensing laws. But Europe is out.

Despite denials from the Young Conservatives' spokesmen, some suspect that Jeremy Hanley, the party chairman, was threatening to boycott proceedings if Europe was on the agenda.

Hanley will be present with other government representatives such as Michael Howard, the former minister, who is chairing the conference, and to Lord Tebbit to fly the Euro-sceptic flag.

Match making

IAIN SPROAT, the Sports Minister, is to be given lessons in belittling opponents, escaping from tight corners and avoiding own goals. On Monday he is to be visited by his Brazilian opposite number Edson Arantes do Nascimento — otherwise known as Pelé.

The world's greatest footballer

Pelé: political goal-seeker

took up the job of Sports Minister in Brazil last month and is on a European tour. In the light of recent domestic events the two should have plenty to talk about. "There's no agenda, they'll just kick a few ideas about," says a spokesman.

P-H-S



THE NEW LEVELLERS

If Major is wrong, the Rowntree report is even more wrong

John Major should have reflected more carefully in Parliament on Thursday when Tony Blair asked him whether reducing inequality was one of the objectives of his Government. The Prime Minister snapped back with a one-word answer: "yes". But if reducing inequality, as an end in itself, were really to be accepted as a major goal of Government, the Tories' record since 1979 would have to be judged a dismal failure.

Labour's attacks were inspired by a report this week from the Joseph Rowntree Trust. Among its more controversial and highly publicised claims was one that "income inequality has grown further and faster in Britain than in any comparable industrial country". Another was that the poorest third of the population had not benefited from rising national prosperity since 1979. Neither of these charges, however, need give Mr Major much of a problem.

The first statement is unsubstantiated, since the study looked at very different periods in comparing changes in incomes in different countries. The claim that inequality in Britain has gone "further" than elsewhere is even more dubious. Although none of the statistics are truly comparable, the latest suggest that Britain is much less unequal than the US and Canada and roughly on a par with Italy and France.

The more sensational claim — that up to 30 per cent of the population, has "failed to benefit from economic growth since 1979" — is simply untrue, even on Rowntree's own statistics. What the report actually shows is that the poorest 10 per cent of the people had about the same cash income after tax, benefits and inflation in 1992 as in 1979. The next 20 per cent enjoyed real gains of between 5 and 10 per cent. Only by deducting housing costs are the figures massaged to reveal that the bottom ten per cent had less disposable income in 1992 than in 1979, while the next 10 per cent stood still. And even after this manipulation, there are gains, albeit small ones, for the next 10 per cent slice of the income distribution.

But for Mr Major, quibbling about statistics is unlikely to blunt the underlying

message from Labour. For even if it is false that the poor have got absolutely poorer, or that Britain is more unequal than other countries, Britain has certainly become more unequal than it was. The question for Mr Major is whether he should now promise to "do something" about inequality. Or should he, instead, try reminding Britain that inequality is no vice, provided poverty remains within civilised limits?

To do the latter, he must establish first, that inequality in Britain does remain within tolerable bounds; international comparisons suggest that it does. Secondly, he must point out that the main increase in inequality occurred in the mid-1980s, and started from a point where incomes had been artificially levelled for decades by incomes policies and trade union bullying. Since 1989, there has been little further change in income distribution. Thirdly, and most importantly, he must devise better policies to deal with extreme poverty — not by trying to level society, but by improving the opportunities for employment, removing work disincentives and trying to discourage the formation of one-parent families whose children account for a high proportion of the "new poor".

For the Tories, these are daunting challenges. But there are dangers for Labour, too, in the inequality debate. Gordon Brown pounced gleefully yesterday on the Rowntree report, adding another twist of over-statement to its already exaggerated conclusions: "middle and low-income Britain are worse off" under the Tories, he declared. When the time comes for the next general election, middle-income Britain will examine history more carefully than the Rowntree researchers. They will find that they have become substantially better off since 1979. If Mr Brown keeps denying this, and telling the middle class it has suffered the same impoverishment as the bottom 10 per cent, voters may conclude that Labour still lives in a socialist cocoon, detached from the middle-class world. Labour naturally wants to be the party of compassion, but it cannot afford to be seen merely as the party of the underclass.

INSULT TO ISLAM

Pakistan would shame its own religion by executing Christians

The sentencing of a 14-year-old boy to death in Pakistan for blasphemy is an abhorrent violation of human rights. It has, predictably and rightly, raised a storm of protest. Amnesty International considers Salamat Masih and his 40-year-old co-defendant — also due to be executed — prisoners of conscience, and believes the charges were maliciously brought and unfairly judged: the boy, it notes, was reported to have been illiterate at the time of his alleged writing of graffiti insulting the Prophet Muhammad. Human rights organisations in Pakistan are already speaking of a new intolerance that threatens all religious minorities. Western opinion will be reinforced in its conviction that fundamentalist Islam now represents a great challenge to Western interests.

The reaction was known to Pakistan's judges and politicians even before sentence was passed. Yet they did nothing to discourage the fanatics who intimidated the defence lawyers and nothing to dispel the impression that they acquiesced in judicial outrage to demonstrate their Islamic credentials. As civil order breaks down, tribal divisions deepen, drugs and crime take hold in the cities and a population explosion threatens to overwhelm economic progress, Islam has become the one card that all can play where other answers elude them.

The political exploitation of religion is a potent temptation in a state whose very existence is based on its religious identity. Since the rule of Zia ul-Haq and the introduction of sharia law the means to do so has been increased. The blasphemy laws which mandate the death penalty and can be enforced on the word of a single witness is

made for abuse. Until now they have been used against heretical Muslim sects; the extension to Pakistan's 2.5 million Christians is a sign that weakened state institutions are now targeting all non-Muslims.

To see fundamentalism as the preserve of the mullahs, the illiterate and the obscurantists is to misread its influence. All Pakistani politicians, motivated as much by personal ambition as ideological conviction, have pandered to its strictures: all have indulged in *pro forma* denunciation of Western secularism; yet all know that with a divided clergy, fundamentalism cannot, in fact, threaten their power as it has in Algeria and elsewhere in North Africa. Benazir Bhutto, for all her Western education and secular background, has to make concessions to Islamic populism and never more so than at the present time, when things are going badly in Kashmir, Karachi is terrorised by rival gangs and ethnic tensions are rising.

This may explain, but does not excuse, the disproportionate savagery of the sentence against Salamat Masih. The Government and judicial authorities may be hoping to have it both ways — appeasing the masses by passing a death sentence, and then appeasing the international community by commuting it as a gesture of clemency. It would be a miscalculation. Even if, as seems likely, the boy's appeal succeeds the damage to Pakistan's image abroad has been done. Enough has been heard recently of the persecution of Christians in Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries to rouse atavistic Western antagonism to Islam. Pakistan has, by its action, fuelled these dangerous new divisions.

ALEXANDER FOR EVERYMAN

All still talk of the great man, even if they cannot find him

The adventures of Alexander the Great are the longest-running romance in show business. The latest excitement came from a Greek archaeologist who claimed to have found the great man's burial place with the aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes. Sad to aid of mystical guidance from snakes.

Before he died at Babylon in his 33rd year, Alexander left two credibly reported messages for posterity. When asked to whom he left his kingdom of the known world, he replied "to the strongest". He added that his prominent friends would stage a vast funeral contest in his honour, in imitation of his Homeric hero, Achilles.

Alexander's funeral contest has been going on ever since, though many years have passed before the strongest could be seen to have emerged. There is in fact no mystery about the terminus of Alexander's corpse. Propaganda destined it for Macedonia or Shiva, the home of the oracle of his supposed father, Zeus. But the coffin was snatched by his general, Ptolemy, as a trophy to justify his independent control of Egypt. Ptolemy displayed it in Alexandria where it was last visited by the Roman emperor, Caracalla, and disappeared in the

riots of the third century AD. The romance of Alexander has proved more adaptable than that of any other mortal, except perhaps for those of the founders of great religions.

He is a multipurpose legend to which each generation can still attach its contemporary interests. His adventures are told in the Koran, and he appears as an anachronistic Christian in carvings in English cathedrals. The Hebrew tradition saw him as a prophet, the Indians as a magnanimous conqueror, the Persians as alternately a true king and a Satan. Ancient Greeks read him as a Hitler. Until the emergence of Macedonia as a rival state and the discovery of his father's tomb at Vergina, modern Greeks looked down on Alexander as a barbarian.

Any party or race can discover whatever it wants in the romance of Alexander. Egalitarians can claim him as one of them for pouring away a helmet full of water because there was not enough in it for his army of 10,000. Elitists can identify with his treatment of eastern princesses and Indian kings. The recent excitement over his burial place shows that the magic of Alexander still lives, and that our current obsession is with buried treasure and ancient roots. Even though he died 23 centuries ago and was probably Macedonian not divine, Alexander is still the best hero to have on one's side.

Prime Minister's Irish options

From Mr J. M. Maybin

Sir, You rightly pointed out, in your leading article of February 2, "The prospect of peace" [see also letters, February 3, 4, 6, 8], both that there has been no denial from London or Dublin on the substance of the leaked draft and that the assertion from Downing Street that the new North-South body would depend upon an elected Northern Ireland assembly for its authority was possibly issued only as a result of publication of the extracts.

Unionists are distrustful of the Government, and with reason. John Major has climbed down three times. He first refused Sinn Féin's demand for "clarification" of the Downing Street declaration, and then capitulated.

He indicated that Sinn Féin would not be admitted to negotiations until there was a permanent end to violence, and then made a "working assumption" which allowed him off the hook.

He demanded a "decommissioning" of arms and explosives before substantive negotiations could include Sinn Féin, and then neatly transferred the responsibility for "intransigence" on this issue to the Unionists.

There is a distinction between "peace" and "the peace process". While the process may be thrown into some confusion by the disclosure in *The Times*, peace will not. The process is one of horse-trading between Dublin/Sinn Féin/SDLP and the British Government, aimed at giving sufficient concessions to nationalists to prevent the IRA from resuming its murder campaign, but not so many as to cause the loyalists to resume theirs.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. MAYBIN,
11 Perry Park,
Bangor, Co Down.

From Dr Edward Smyth

Sir, I listened with regret to the Prime Minister's ministerial broadcast on February 2, following your publication of sections of the framework document. He gave Unionists reassurances that three locks were in place: the views of local politicians, the people of Northern Ireland, and Parliament. The familiar response to this from Unionist politicians was to veto all attempts at progress and political mediation.

I observe now among the traditionally Unionist Protestant community (from which I come) increasing frustration with this rhetoric, yet at the same time a growing optimism. It appears to me that the politicians, sensing these frustrations and hopes in their own community, may be becoming afraid of the moderation of their people and hence the outcome of a referendum.

They are right to be frightened. The large majority of moderate Unionist and nationalist people would support the essential ingredients hinted at in the partly revealed framework document, increasing cross-border co-operation with safeguards.

If the Prime Minister calls their bluff I believe that he will be pleasantly surprised.

Yours hopefully,
EDWARD SMYTH,
71 Grovehill Gardens,
Bangor, Co Down.
February 10.

From Sir Neil Pritchard

Sir, The peace process involves a complex of serious and strong interests and emotions which stack up on all sides. The effort to achieve progress involves a network of delicate, anxious and complicated negotiations.

Nobody, not even you, would suggest that such negotiations can all be conducted in public. Equally nobody has suggested that the negotiations can be completed without moving to full public discussion.

What you have done, however, by printing extracts from the draft of the proposed framework, is to take it up on yourself to decide at what stage in the process the negotiations should become public.

That is why I regard your action as arrogant, and irresponsible, and your self-justification (leading article, February 2) as inadequate.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL PRITCHARD,
Little Garth,
Daglingworth,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
February 9.

From Sir Charles Pickthorn

Sir, Our fellow subjects of the Crown in Ulster have been assured that they will not be asked to submit to an all-Ireland body with executive powers. It now appears that they will only be asked to agree to "a powerful new North-South authority over Ulster with powers to deal directly with Brussels".

Obviously there is an enormous difference between an "all-Ireland body" and a "North-South authority". I look forward to Mr Major and Sir Patrick Mayhew explaining this.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PICKTHORN,
Manor House, Nunmy,
Nr Frome, Somerset.
February 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hitting back at 'rude' interviewers

From Professor Emeritus Leslie Collier

Sir, I welcome John Birt's criticism of the standards of broadcast interviews (article, February 4). Certain news presenters constantly interrupt answers to the questions they put. I get the impression that they are less interested in what their victim is saying than in firing off every question on their list before the end of the allotted time. This often leads to the unedifying and distracting spectacle of two people, one of whom may be quite eminent, trying as hard as they can to talk each other down. Cannot interviewers, when necessary, forgo at least part of their scripts in the interest of getting intelligible responses?

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE COLLIER,
8 Fete Place, Regent's Park, NW1.
February 4.

From Mr D. J. Bridle

Sir, If only Brenda Maddox's comments ("Rude" include us out, Mr Birt) Media and Marketing, February 8) were true, and journalists had only "one voice, which counts for no more than one", and that others were "free to do the same".

Her piece will have been read by perhaps a million readers of *The Times*. Most who disagree with her will not have the same means of having their views considered. I am more convinced by John Birt's argument.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BRIDLE,
9 Yeomans Orchard,
Wrighton, Bristol, Avon.

Becket's bones

From Dr Michael Stratton

Sir, Readers may be glad to know that the exact whereabouts of the bones of St Thomas of Canterbury are not "known only to a small and determined group of the faithful", as your report alleges ("Search for a saint", February 2). A few have been treasured in a reliquary in the basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome since before the Reformation.

The reliquary is a large one. It contains portions of St Thomas's shin, collar and arm bones, and a portion of the skull. A piece of hair-shirt he was wearing at his martyrdom, and a shirt soaked in the blood are included. Monsignor Canon Dilwyn Lewis, chamberlain and vicar capitular of the basilica, presided over a renewed canonical authentication of the reliquary in 1992.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL STRATTON,
Culver Farm,
Old Compton Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.
February 2.

National Lottery

From Mr David Liddiment

Sir, To date, not one penny has been allocated, let alone spent, of the £161,603,000 of National Lottery takings that has been set aside for good causes. In the spirit of your leading article (January 28), it is precisely because the BBC wishes to show that the lottery will "enhance our national life" that we have incorporated a feature designed to illustrate local charitable activities into every single programme to date.

Last Saturday an estimated 14 million viewers watched the duration of the show, with some 17 million tuning in for the draw itself: a considerably higher figure than your estimate of 10 million and considerably more than the number who chose to remain watching TV.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LIDDIMENT
(Head of Entertainment Group,
BBC Network Television),
BBC Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.
February 6.

From Mr Steve Ashworth

Sir, With regard to lottery odds (letter, February 4), I recently wrote a computer program that randomly selected

From Mr Brian R. Battersby

Sir, A framed copy of Mr John Birt's most valuable article on the role of journalists and broadcasters should hang on the wall of every radio and television studio, and should stand on the desk of every journalist.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN R. BATTERSBY,
Longdale House,
Wincle, Macclesfield, Cheshire.
February 4.

From Mr Julian Dare

Sir, In the present dispute on the modern media the necessary distinction should be made between destructive criticism which rapidly degenerates into becoming an end in itself, and constructive criticism which is a means to an end beyond itself, namely "the common good".

The contemporary parade of petty ego-trippers on our television screens and airwaves and in the pages of our press is both boring and pernicious.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN DARE,
26 Russell Court,
St Margaret's Road, Oxford.
February 4.

From Wing Commander R. Dauncey

Sir, John Birt says "the remedies are in our own hands" — surely they are in his!

Yours faithfully,
R. DAUNCEY,
34 Main Road, Naphill,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.
February 6.

From the Reverend Mark T. Elvins

Sir, Bones of Thomas Becket have rested at Canterbury since at least 1953, when Prior Thomas Beckett, OSB, of Chevetogne, a collateral descendant of St Thomas, presented St Thomas's Catholic Church at Northgate, Canterbury, with a finger bone of the martyr that may have come originally from the royal collection in France. In the following year a relic of St Thomas's vestment and a piece of bone were given to the same church by Mary Hales of Hales Place, and I have myself recently given the church a small relic of bone.

All these relics, which seem to have come from France and Italy, may be remnants of those given to Pandulf, the Papal Legate, and William, Archbishop of Rheims, who came to Canterbury in 1120 to witness the translation of Becket's remains to the magnificent new shrine behind the old high altar.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
MARK T. ELVINS,
c/o The Priest's House, Tanyard,
Church Lane, Henfield, West Sussex.
February 2.

six different numbers from a range of one to 49, arranged them in ascending numerical order and compared them with six random numbers of my choice, again of ascending numerical order. Working on the assumption of one lottery draw per week, my machine runs at the rate of 600 years of draws per hour. After three hours of operation it did not match my selection of numbers.

Furthermore, a friend of mine ran this program overnight on his much faster machine, still without a match of numbers. It seems that becoming a millionaire in virtual reality is just as difficult as in the real world.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE ASHWORTH,
Flat 4, 42 Leicester Square, WC2.
February 5.

From Mr W. Wilkinson

Sir, The Times has merely followed Camelot in surrendering to Americanisation (letter, February 7).

My two-week entry in the "National" Lottery shows that it is for "Sat 04 Feb thru Sat 11 Feb 95".

Whose "nation" is it?
Yours faithfully,
W. WILKINSON,
2 Linnet Court, Westfield,
Ashington, Northumberland.
February 7.

On the buses

From Mr T. H. Hughes-Davies

Sir, I hope your headline, "From battlement to bus pass" (February 4), does not mislead Chief Petty Officer Price. If he stays in Portsmouth, he will find that Hampshire pensioners pay their own fares.

Yours sincerely,
T. H. HUGHES-DAVIES,
Slade's Cottage, Breamore,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Vox pop

From Dr Carol Cooper

Sir, Patients turning up at fracture clinics often find their noses ominously stamped with the order "POP OFF ON ARRIVAL" (Colonel Maggee's letter, February 8). Fortunately this means only that their plaster of Paris is to be removed before they see the doctor.

Yours faithfully,
CAROL COOPER,
33 Berks Hill,
Charleywood, Hertfordshire.
February 9.

Hurd and the Dutch

From the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of The Netherlands

Sir, Writing on February 7, your European Editor, George Brock, refers to my visit to Foreign Secretary Hurd on January 26 ("Pressure grows on Britain to resolve discord on Europe").

Mr Brock quotes unspecified Dutch sources as telling him that I was "appalled" by my talks with Mr Hurd and by his generally negative attitude. I want to state that this is not only totally unfounded, but complete and utter nonsense. I found my talks with Secretary Hurd, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, extremely informative and constructive, as I emphasised in my press conference afterwards.

Yours etc,
HANS VAN MIERLO,
Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken,
Beuzenhoudseweg 67,
Postbus 20061,
2500 EB The Hague,
The Netherlands.
February 9.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

On Hogarth and Lord Burlington

From Dame Gillian Wagner

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("The pug and the dilettante", February 4) mentions William Hogarth's gift to St Bartholomew's Hospital, but not his far more significant gifts to the Foundling Hospital, of which the artist was a founder governor.

In 1740 Hogarth presented the Foundling Hospital with his greatest portrait, that of its founder, Thomas Coram, and later gave it *The March of the Guards to Finchley* and *Moss before Pharaoh's Daughter*. He also persuaded other famous artists to contribute to the decoration of the hospital, including Alan Ramsay, Charles Brooking, Gainsborough, Reynolds and Wilson. Rystrach and Roubillac made contributions and Handel (another founder governor) used his music to raise funds for the charity.

By encouraging artists to work for the alleviation of poverty, Hogarth gave a high moral value and brought a new seriousness to art. The collection that he inspired is still complete and in being here, on the original site of the Foundling Hospital.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN WAGNER (Chairman),
Thomas Coram Foundation
for Children,
40 Brunswick Square, WCI.
February 4.

From Mr John Harris

Sir, As the organiser of the exhibition at Burlington House, I was delighted by Simon Jenkins's Hogarthian tilt. I feel obliged to point out, however, that the intention of the exhibition was to display for the first time all the visual records of Chiswick — rather than the life and times of Lord Burlington.

I could also wish that Mr Jenkins's tilt had been delivered more accurately. The implication that Burlington's parterres were extending when Hogarth bought the house in 1749 is false: Burlington had stopped gardening by 1740 and had given up any pretension to architecture.

If Burlington's Grand Tour in 1714-15 is remarkable for anything, it is a complete lack of interest in Italian architecture rather than the "obsession" with it alluded to by Mr Jenkins. He did not bring back "Signior" William Kent from Rome until his more serious visit to Italy in 1719.

I, too, would have appreciated the presence of Hogarth and his good dog Trump at the opening of the exhibition. However, the compensation was surely the witty and earthy Kent, who in no way could be described as an "effete" Burlingtonian. Hogarth and Kent had more in common than either painter would have cared to admit. I have no doubt that, from their shared earth in Chiswick churchyard, they are enjoying this exchange.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS,
16 Limerston Street, SW10.
February 8.

Beaks in Brussels

From Sir John Weston, British Ambassador to Nato

Sir, Readers who think Brussels dull may like to know of the increasing prevalence of the ring-necked parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) (also known as the rose-ringed parakeet) in the wild around the capital of Europe. This striking bird, some 16 in long, emerald green and yellow with a scarlet beak and pink and black collar, originated from India in the Sixties but breeds prolifically in these climes and is giving the local magpies a run for their money.

Parakeets feed boldly in my garden. They also make a pretty sight when flying in formation. Last autumn I saw a whole squadron, like miniature Tornado aircraft banking steeply in the evening sunlight, while *The Royal Green Jackets* (appropriately) were beating the retreat below at Nato headquarters.

On a recent weekend run round Richmond Park, I scored four sightings of the ring-necked parakeet within the hour. Clearly they are good Europeans, and the Channel is no obstacle.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WESTON,
United Kingdom Delegation to Nato,
Autowrite Bruxelles,
Zaventem, Evère, 1110 Brussels.

Aged in the pot

From Mrs Maureen Nyazai

Sir, Apparently Joanna Lumley, aged 48, is judged "too old" to advertise Müller yoghurt (report, February 3). Am I, therefore, at the same age, to be judged "too old" to eat it?

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN NYAZAI,
Tile House,
Grosvenor Road, Godalming, Surrey.

A tangled web

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, Your report, "Gym photos deal keeps Princess out of court" (February 9), refers to "a sticking point, which had been the fly in the ointment on previous occasions".

Was it not the ointment that was the sticking point (at least for the fly)?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

OBITUARIES

STUART DAVIES

Stuart Davies, CBE, aircraft designer and former president of the Royal Aeronautical Society, died on January 22 aged 78. He was born on December 5, 1916.



In the same year he took a degree in engineering at London University. At Vickers he worked on successive variants of the twin-engine Vickers Wellington bomber, including the radical weight-saving conversion of it from a wooden to a metal structure. In 1931 he joined Hawker and became one of the seven-strong design staff under the great Sydney Camm. For the next couple of years he worked on the development of the Hawker Hart and Fury biplane fighters.

for innovation, Camm made him sole member of his new Project Office where, with Roy Chaplin and Camm himself, he made preliminary drawings of what was called the "Fury Monoplane". The aircraft marked a new departure from 13 years of successful biplane manufacture at Hawker's and out of this paper prototype came the Hurricane eight-gun fighter of Battle of Britain fame.

In 1938 Davies became assistant chief designer to Roy Chadwick at Hawker's associated company, A. V. Roe. The design and early construction of the Avro Manchester bomber was under way; an aircraft intended to give some muscle to the RAF's strategic bombing. But, though it had many excellent features — robust construction and a good defensive armament — the Manchester suffered from chronic engine problems and was never popular with its pilots. Two years later it fell to Davies, by then in charge of Avro's experimental department, to spearhead the conversion of the Manchester into the four-engine Lancaster, the first production model of which was first flown at Woodford, Cheshire, on October 31, 1941. It was the first of a production run of 7,377. Between 1942 and 1945 Lancasters were to drop two-thirds of all the bombs dropped by Bomber Command during the war.

From 1944, as chief designer of Avro's shadow-factory at Yeovil, near Leeds, Davies was in charge of

the development and production of the York military transport, and at the same time he began work, with Chadwick on the Lincoln bomber — successor to the Lancaster. With the end of the war and the closure of Avro's Yeovil factory, Davies returned to Woodford as Avro's chief designer in succession to Chadwick who became technical director.

Under Davies Avro designed and built a long-range airliner with a pressurised cabin, the Avro Tudor, and the prototype was flown in June 1945. On August 24, 1947, a 60-passenger variant took off from Woodford on a routine test flight, flown by Bill Thorn, Avro's chief test pilot, with Roy Chadwick, Stuart Davies and three other crew-members on board. Tragically, it crashed on take-off, at the aerodrome boundary, through the coupling-up of the aileron controls in reverse. The only survivors were Davies and the flight engineer. Both men were injured but had been saved from death by their positions in the aft end of the fuselage.

On his recovery, Davies led the Avro team in the building of five experimental, single-engine jet aircraft, the Avro 707s, designed to conduct research into the delta wing. The third of these became a one-third scale-model for the Vulcan, perhaps the most famous of the V-bombers which made up Britain's nuclear deterrent force in the 1950s and 1960s. Its first flight, in July 1961, the first non-stop flight from the United

Kingdom to Sydney, Australia, 10,575 miles in just over 20 hours at a speed of 527mph. More than twenty years later, in the campaign to retake the Falklands, the Vulcan undertook the longest range bombing missions of the RAF's history, when it raided Stanley airfield from Ascension Island 3,750 miles away.

Among Davies's other designs for Avro were the Athena advanced trainer for the RAF and the Ashton, a jet-engine version of the Tudor, designed for engine, pressurisation, radar and high altitude bombing research.

In 1953 Davies left Avro to join the Dowty Group at Cheltenham as managing director of Dowty Fuel Systems. In 1958 he returned to the Hawker-Siddeley Group, of which Avro was an integral part, as technical director. There, among other things, he was responsible for the management problems inherent in the absorption, by Hawker-Siddeley, of the Brush Electric Group.

During his final eight years, from 1964 to his retirement in 1972, Davies was technical director of Dowty-Rotol, with whom he continued to act as a consultant until 1987. He had been appointed CBE in 1968.

Davies, welcome in many advisory roles throughout the aircraft industry, was president of the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1971-72. In 1935 he married Ethel Rosalie Radcliff. His wife predeceased him and he is survived by their daughter.

A. L. WARR

Anthony Warr, England rugby player and assistant manager, Harrow School, 1946-75, died on January 29 aged 81. He was born on May 15, 1913.



IT WAS typical of "Tim" Warr that he should describe himself as the worst three-quarter of his day in the England team, denigrate his ability as a wicketkeeper in spite of nearly winning a Blue and, even though he was an exhibitor and Kitchener scholar at Oxford, profoundly admire those teachers who dealt with more advanced work than him.

Warr, who became a housemaster at Harrow, was an exceedingly modest man. For 30 years he taught at the school, participating in many of the activities there. He had no desire to become a headmaster, regarding a housemastership as the crown of a good schoolmaster's career.

Anthony Lawley Warr, who was always known as Tim, was educated at Bromsgrove before going up to Oxford, where he was a rugby Blue for two years. As a wing three-quarter, he won caps against Wales and Ireland in the England team of 1934. Before the war, in which he served as a captain in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, he taught at Leeds Grammar School and Mill Hill.

In 1945 he returned to teach at his old school for a year. When he arrived at Harrow, he was able to put his deep knowledge of rugby to use by running the 1st XV and planning a new pitch on which a fast, open game could be played. He became master in charge of the gymnasium, ran the mountaineering club and took part in school plays. A keen fisherman and auctioneer, he brought to suburbia a permanent whiff of the country.

During Warr's time at Harrow, there was less importance attached to academic results than in the case today. After leaving Rendalls Warr continued to teach at Harrow for two years before retiring, with his wife Phyllis, to Somerset.

Harrovians were able to take their place in the outside world with a feeling of certainty. Warr was a sensitive and kind teacher, but like other housemasters at Harrow, he believed in the value of an all-round education with an emphasis on sport.

As housemaster of Rendalls from 1961-73, he did not believe in the green baize door. Boys could come and see him at any time of day or night. He was able to communicate with them as well as he could with their parents, who were plied with sherry at weekends. Warr liked nothing better than to bring out his pipe and tobacco and a string of amusing anecdotes. He was renowned for his sense of humour.

In only one respect did he have a high opinion of himself: he stood for certain values and principles which generations of schoolboys dared not question. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

SAM GOLDSMITH

Sam Goldsmith, journalist and former London editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, died in London on January 18 aged 84. He was born in Janova near Kaunas, Lithuania, on April 18, 1910.



SAM GOLDSMITH enjoyed baiting the Anglo-Jewish community in which he found refuge from 1939. He also enjoyed arguing with politicians, journalists, writers and philosophers — anyone who could keep a stimulating debate alive.

A journalist from his student days in Lithuania — he edited a school magazine, student paper and went straight onto a Yiddish paper serving the Jews of the Baltic states — he witnessed and reported on the tense nationalistic interwar period on the Continent, including Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. After the war he was the first journalist to enter Belsen and in the first party to enter Dachau. He also reported on the Nuremberg trials.

Writing for a Jewish constituency that was coming under increasing pressure from Fascist parties in the 1920s and 1930s, he kept a close eye on the progress of the Zionist movement. While he admired the right-wing leader Vladimir Jabotinsky, he was more concerned with general progress than party politics.

His great-uncle had been a delegate to the first Zionist Congress convened by Theodore Herzl in Basel in 1897 and he called himself a natural Zionist.

He came to London in April 1939 as a foreign correspondent two days after marrying Sonia Minski. Both came from the same cultured and scholarly background, with a deep knowledge of Jewish and

European literature and were fluent in several languages. Hampshire became their home and Goldsmith became a health-lover, serving in the 15th Company, Hampshire Home Guard, based at a local pub.

With the Nazi invasion of Lithuania and the end of Jewish life there, he wrote for *Reynolds News* at home and for a Jewish daily paper in Palestine.

From 1958 until 1975 he was London bureau chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. As a freelance he wrote for various English papers, including *The Times*, and several leading Israeli papers.

He wrote as prolifically as he spoke, giving lectures and producing numerous collections of essays on the Jewish life that had been lost and the leaders he had met. His style, in whichever language he chose — English, Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Russian and quite a few others — was punchy, humorous and often easier to understand than his heavily accented Lithuanian pronunciation.

His polemics were largely reserved for two particular targets. One was the low cultural level of the native British Jewish population. He delighted in criticising its mistakes in Yiddish grammar and had poor hopes of the new Oxford centre for Yiddish studies — though he campaigned vigorously for the teaching of modern Hebrew.

The other target of attack was the Labour leadership of Attlee and Bevin, whose policies on Jewish aspirations for a national home made almost as searing an impression on him as the unspeakable horrors of the death camps — horrors which he said never left him for the rest of his life.

He leaves a wife and daughter.

RACHEL THOMAS

Rachel Thomas, OBE, actress, died in Cardiff on February 8 aged 89. She was born in Pontardawe, West Glamorgan, on February 10, 1905.



Edward Chapman, Rachel Thomas and Paul Robeson in *The Proud Valley*, 1939

RACHEL THOMAS was known in the business as the "Queen Mother" of Welsh actresses. She was certainly the equal, in terms of talent if not superficial glamour, of many actresses in the West End or Hollywood. But Wales, and the Welsh language, were her home and passion and within these self-imposed boundaries she enjoyed a long career in theatre, film, television and radio.

On screen, she was every inch the Celt, with her black hair, pale skin and strong features, and she exuded a natural warmth and dignity. She could be surprisingly shy in person, though she saw this as just another defect to overcome: "Nid da lla gellir gwelw" (Not good when you can do better) was her staunchly-upheld motto.

Her speciality was playing the Welsh "mam". It was a type not so very far removed from her screen debut in *The Proud Valley* (1939), in which Paul Robeson played a black miner who is protected by the kindness of his landlady, played by Thomas, and her miner husband from the harassment of local bigots: "Blast it, man, aren't we all black down that pit?"

Rachel Roberts, as she was born, was herself the daughter of a miner who fell foul of the mine-owners because of his union activities. The family had no acting tradition but her father encouraged her to sing

and to recite at the local eisteddfodau, often walking to them with the young Rachel on his shoulders. From childhood, she spent her spare time reading poetry, great chunks of which she would learn by heart. She attended Ystalyfera County School in the Swansea valley, and briefly became a teacher, before marrying a headmaster, Howell J. Thomas.

She began her professional career in the early 1930s, when she read a lesson from the local church for a radio programme. The BBC was inundated with callers extolling the sensitivity of the reading, and she was subsequently asked to audition for them.

By 1940, with the rapturous reception to *The Proud Valley*,

her course was firmly set as an actress. There followed numerous films, notably *Valley of Song* (1953), in which members of a Welsh valley choir nearly come to blows over an interpretation of *The Messiah*; *Tiger Bay* (1959), a superior police chase around Cardiff starring Hayley Mills; *The Captive Heart* (1946), an excellent Ealing drama, set in a German POW camp; and *Under Milk Wood* with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Her theatre career took her to London — where she played Mrs Pearce in *Pygmalion*.

Television and radio, particularly Welsh-speaking productions, became the staple of her later career. She appeared in the television version of

How Green was My Valley (1968) and in *Owen MD* (1971). She played Bella, an old woman in a nursing home, in *Pobol y Cwm* (People of the Valley), BBC Wales's daily soap opera which briefly surfaced on BBC2 with subtitles.

She was just as unflinching in old age, whether it was in *Arsenic and Old Lace* at the Grand Theatre in Swansea or playing the gun-toting Sarah in BBC Wales's recent television play, *Whistling Boy*.

In 1968 she was appointed OBE for her services to Wales. The National Eisteddfod also honoured her in 1990, by making her a member of the Gorsedd of Bards.

Her husband died in 1964. She is survived by a daughter.

'NIN' RYAN

"Nin" Ryan, American patron of the arts and hostess, died in New York on January 26 aged 93. She was born in Morristown, New Jersey, on July 4, 1901.

"NIN" RYAN was one of the truly great figures in New York society, but that was not how she regarded herself. Though raised with every conceivable luxury and a life of uninterrupted privilege, it did not occur to her to have a social secretary. In her nineties, she liked to walk home alone through the streets of New York, rebuffing the very idea of a taxi. Nor was she deterred by the idea of going out in the evening, unescorted, to a lecture at the Metropolitan Museum.

Born Margaret Dorothy Kahn — but always known as "Nin" — she was the daughter of Otto Kahn, who had been the principal benefactor of the Metropolitan Opera for many years, and was married to John Barry Ryan — a wealthy man in his own right — in 1928. To the Met she continued to go as if it were her second home. She was active in all its affairs, and was made an honorary director of the house in 1981. One of the great excitements of her later years was the all-too-brief visits to the Met of Carlos Kleiber, a conductor of genius in whom she recognised a spirit as independent as her own.

But perhaps it was in her apartment on East 52nd Street that she was most completely herself. As a hostess, she had an imitably light hand. Enormously but almost covertly well read and blessed with a profound intelligence that she never paraded, she loved the company of clever men and women.

She also had an irrepressible sense of fun. And, all her life long, she had a delicate gift for flirtation and did not discourage it in others. But it was not her ambition to win historic confrontations, or otherwise. She preferred conversation in which ideas danced but did not thunder.

Rare was the New Yorker, and rarer still the visitor from overseas, who did not jump at an invitation from her. John Pope-Hennessy once wrote: "When in Florence I think about New York, it is Nin's book-lined drawing room, with its view over the East River and its Sisley trembling above the fireplace, that comes first to mind."

In her late eighties, she would set off for Europe on her own and negotiate the high summer crowds in busy airports. To the end she was always on time, with her sense of the human comedy undiminished. She had an inner picture of herself and she liked to live up to it. In that inner picture discipline played a large part, as did curiosity.

But if she was curious, she was also compassionate. She had known great unhappiness, and for many years she had endured periods of intense nervous illness. But she never spoke of these things and, when others were in trouble, no one could have wished for a better friend.

Her husband died in 1966 and she is survived by her son and daughter.

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LAURENCE ACTS
NOTICE is hereby given that the late Mrs. Laurence, who died on 10th January 1994, has left a will in which she has bequeathed to the Laurence Society, a charitable trust, the sum of £10,000 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to young people in need of help and support. The Laurence Society is a registered charity and its objects are to provide financial assistance to young people in need of help and support. The Laurence Society is a registered charity and its objects are to provide financial assistance to young people in need of help and support.

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NEWS

Judge's life sentence protest

A judge in Belfast called for the abolition of the mandatory life sentence for murder as he jailed two Scots Guardsmen for killing a teenager in the city. The two men had been part of a four-man patrol and the victim, Peter McBride, 18, had run away when challenged by another of the soldiers in the group. Page 1

Air chief forced to resign

Air Chief Marshal Sir Sandy Wilson, the senior RAF commander forced to resign over the £387,000 spent on renovating his official residence, was given an ultimatum to leave the service or face suspension and an inquiry that could have lasted 18 months. Pages 1

Euro battle

John Major was fighting a forlorn battle to hold his Government together after single currency divisions erupted into warfare. Page 1

Oyston charges

Owen Oyston, the millionaire publisher, was charged with eight sex offences, including four counts of rape. Page 1

Pensioners saved

Pensioners faced with ruin after Robert Maxwell plundered their pension funds learnt that a deal had been agreed to restore their security. Page 1

Murder in a lane

A farmer's wife had her throat cut in a country lane 400 yards from where her husband and son were working. Page 3

Veal arrests

Thirty people were arrested when more than 1,500 veal demonstrators blocked the road to Brightlingsea docks. Page 5

Church giving rises but 'not enough'

Worshippers each give twice as much in real terms to the Church of England as their counterparts a generation ago. But the weekly contribution of between £2 and £3 still falls short of the £8 which the Bishop of Chester recommended as appropriate for anyone who could afford tickets for a football game. Page 9

Peer arrested

Lord Brocket, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, has been arrested after a four-year investigation into the theft of classic cars. Page 7

Dresden protest

A neo-Nazi group is planning today to stage an anti-British demonstration in the centre of Dresden during the 50th anniversary commemorations. Page 11

Religious sentence

The sentencing to death of two Christians for blasphemy has highlighted the increasing persecution of religious minorities in Pakistan. Page 12

Mexican advance

Mexican troops reportedly pushed deep into rebel territory in the state of Chiapas. Page 13

Aid workers seized

Five aid workers were being held by southern Sudanese rebels after the town in which they were working was attacked. Page 14



President Nelson Mandela greets Andimba Toivo ja Toivo, the Namibian Minister of Mines, yesterday on Robben Island, off Cape Town, the site of the prison where they were both incarcerated. Page 14

THE NEW WALLERS

The question for Mr Major is whether he should promise to "do something" about inequality. Or should he remind Britain that inequality is no vice, provided poverty is within civilised limits? Page 17

THE PAPERS

Petroleum has proved more of a curse than a blessing to a lot of countries. For every Norway where petrodollars prop up a genteel lifestyle, you can name an Iraq where a dictator spurs on weapons. Page 17

COLUMNS

Tony Blair: Kenneth Clarke's speech does not succeed in papering over the Conservative cracks. Page 16

BUSINESS

Eurotunnel: Battered shareholders in Eurotunnel received their latest package of bad news with delays of five months in the full operation of the drive on-drive off service. Page 21

SPORT

Cricket: Brian Lara scored 147 in the second Test match against New Zealand in Wellington as West Indies reached 356 for three on the opening day. Page 35

OBITUARIES

Stuart Davies, aircraft designer; Anthony Warr, England rugby player and a master at Harrow; Rachel Thomas, actress. Page 19

SATURDAY

MAGAZINE

The superman: Iain R. Webb on what gives male models the edge. Page 24
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Talk Radio UK: Robert Crampton on the station that launches next week to counteract the out-of-touch chattering classes. Page 15
Bomb busters: About 2,000 unexploded Allied bombs still lie beneath Germany's feet. John David Morley meets the man who defuses them. Page 18
Paris house style: Lisa Lovatt-Smith on the interiors of flea-market enthusiast Isabelle Adjani. Page 32

WEEKEND

Fine romance: Lonely hearts find love in *The Times* Page 1
Offers: Take a cruise to the Fjords, page 3; enjoy a feast of Mozart for 20p. Page 7
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"Get yer kit off!": That was what one punter shouted at a West End play. Why can't theatre audiences express their emotions more often. Page 5

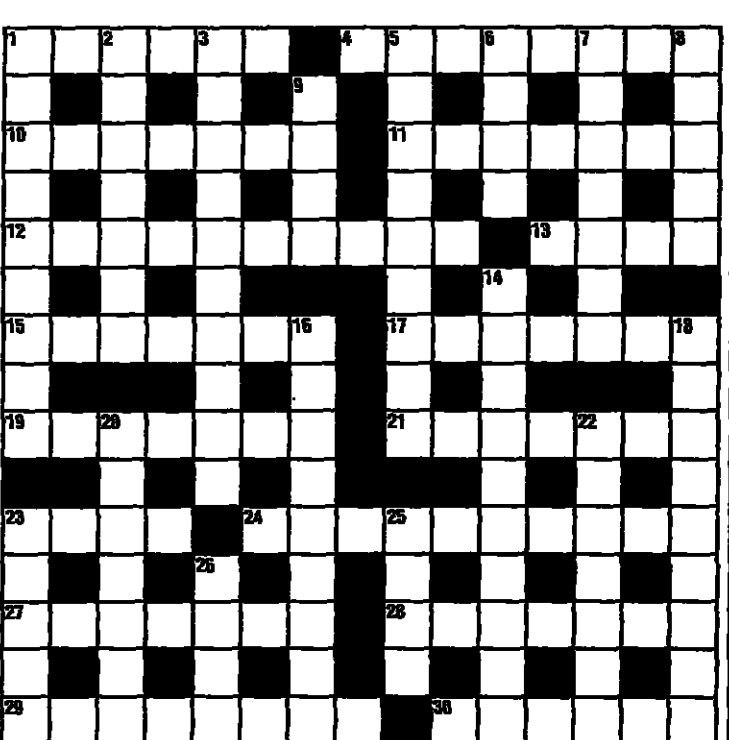
VISION

Cool sports: Will Channel 4's *Board Stupid* make snowboarding a hot topic? Page 3
New cracker? *Hearts and Minds*, drama from the originator of *Cracker*. Page 5
Road movie: Politicians, protesters and a bypass. Page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,776

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS
- Walton's composition in various keys (6)
 - Examine farm animals brought pluck in group (5,3)
 - Dismissal concerning many at cricket ground (7)
 - Secretly returned vehicle to girl (3,4)
 - A bunch of characters unaffected by reversal (10)
 - Suspend supporter (4)
 - Some fall for American's old-fashioned beer (7)
 - Sorted out what's indeed significant, centrally? (7)
 - What Holmes sometimes did was dishonest (7)
 - Divine female, for instance, accepting Order of Merit? (7)
 - Strike police sergeant (4)
 - Weapon prophet used in malicious attack (7,3)
 - People generally friendly on the island (7)
 - Somewhere in Wales, as a news broadcast has it (7)
 - Cursed extra trip (6)
 - Permitted inclusion of female character in dictionary (6)
- DOWN
- Upset if given criticism? Able to survive a scorching (9)
 - Old king's capital amounted to plenty (7)
 - Quickly dropping inventor's main expository device (6,4)
 - Service vehicles for news organisations (4,5)
 - Stone some lucky Burmese turned up (4)
 - Trim or cut around edges of these (7)
 - Crawler requiring replacement of today's article (5)
 - Like wings a bird has got clipped (4)
 - Having started, missing the target (3,4)
 - Engaged on criminal activity - like arms for Ulster (3-6)
 - Race to get into part of vehicle in front of driver (9)
 - Shield one side in action (7)
 - There's something comical in my regal manner (7)
 - Quick sketch, perhaps, for a carving (5)
 - Get ready for a saint appearing in church (4)
 - Moor on river bank (4)

Solutions to Puzzle No 19,776

UNBOTTLED NUMBER
FIBREOPTIC
ANITIC
TAKESOME
REUON
CROSSBAR
CARRI
ASIO UNABATED
CARBOUS
AOUT
DOWNTOE
EEOE
SPRING PREMIER

SUSPENSE NUMBER
AULT
NOBLEWOMAN
DICTIC
PRACTICAL
TOENAIL
NUN
OUTRAGE
CROCODINE
LSWTD
MOOT
SENM
SEADING

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
Republic of Ireland	708
Channel Islands	709
Jersey	710
Guernsey	711
Manx	712
London & SE	713
East of England	714
West of England	715
South of England	716
North of England	717
Scotland	718
Wales	719
Republic of Ireland	720
Channel Islands	721
Jersey	722
Guernsey	723
Manx	724
London & SE	725
East of England	726
West of England	727
South of England	728
North of England	729
Scotland	730
Wales	731
Republic of Ireland	732
Channel Islands	733
Jersey	734
Guernsey	735
Manx	736

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	737
East of England	738
West of England	739
South of England	740
North of England	741
Scotland	742
Wales	743
Republic of Ireland	744
Channel Islands	745
Jersey	746
Guernsey	747
Manx	748

TODAY

Region	Code
London & SE	749
East of England	750
West of England	751
South of England	752
North of England	753
Scotland	754
Wales	755
Republic of Ireland	756
Channel Islands	757
Jersey	758
Guernsey	759
Manx	760

TOMORROW

Region	Code
London & SE	761
East of England	762
West of England	763
South of England	764
North of England	765
Scotland	766
Wales	767
Republic of Ireland	768
Channel Islands	769
Jersey	770
Guernsey	771
Manx	772

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	773
East of England	774
West of England	775
South of England	776
North of England	777
Scotland	778
Wales	779
Republic of Ireland	780
Channel Islands	781
Jersey	782
Guernsey	783
Manx	784

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	785
East of England	786
West of England	787
South of England	788
North of England	789
Scotland	790
Wales	791
Republic of Ireland	792
Channel Islands	793
Jersey	794
Guernsey	795
Manx	796

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	797
East of England	798
West of England	799
South of England	800
North of England	801
Scotland	802
Wales	803
Republic of Ireland	804
Channel Islands	805
Jersey	806
Guernsey	807
Manx	808

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	809
East of England	810
West of England	811
South of England	812
North of England	813
Scotland	814
Wales	815
Republic of Ireland	816
Channel Islands	817
Jersey	818
Guernsey	819
Manx	820

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	821
East of England	822
West of England	823
South of England	824
North of England	825
Scotland	826
Wales	827
Republic of Ireland	828
Channel Islands	829
Jersey	830
Guernsey	831
Manx	832

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

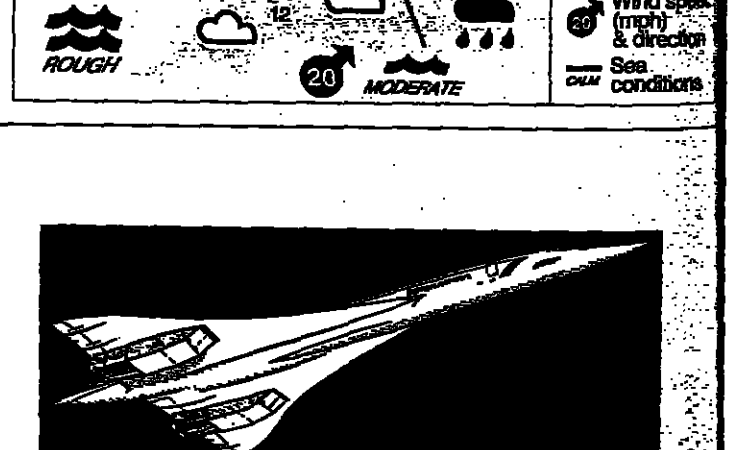
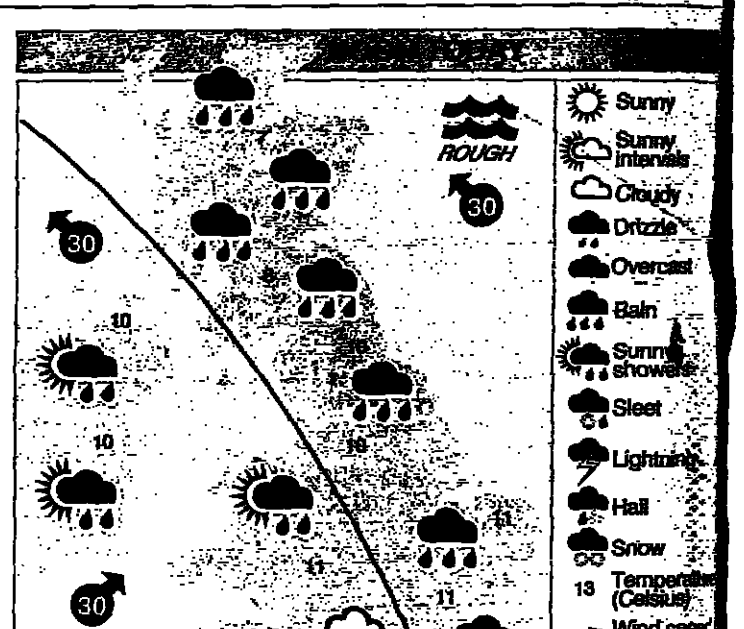
Region	Code
London & SE	833
East of England	834
West of England	835
South of England	836
North of England	837
Scotland	838
Wales	839
Republic of Ireland	840
Channel Islands	841
Jersey	842
Guernsey	843
Manx	844

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	845
East of England	846
West of England	847
South of England	848
North of England	849
Scotland	850
Wales	851
Republic of Ireland	852
Channel Islands	853
Jersey	854
Guernsey	855
Manx	856

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	857
East of England	858
West of England	859
South of England	860
North of England	861
Scotland	862
Wales	863
Republic of Ireland	864
Channel Islands	865
Jersey	866
Guernsey	867
Manx	868



For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	869
East of England	870
West of England	871
South of England	872
North of England	873
Scotland	874
Wales	875
Republic of Ireland	876
Channel Islands	877
Jersey	878
Guernsey	879
Manx	880

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	881
East of England	882
West of England	883
South of England	884
North of England	885
Scotland	886
Wales	887
Republic of Ireland	888
Channel Islands	889
Jersey	890
Guernsey	891
Manx	892

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	893
East of England	894
West of England	895
South of England	896
North of England	897
Scotland	898
Wales	899
Republic of Ireland	900
Channel Islands	901
Jersey	902
Guernsey	903
Manx	904

For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE	905
East of England	906
West of England	907
South of England	908
North of England	909
Scotland	910
Wales	911
Republic of Ireland	912
Channel Islands	913
Jersey	914
Guernsey	915
Manx	916

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Partners
in Power
at BBA



TUNNEL SIGNAL 23

Air rivals
look down
on Eurostar



SPORT 35-40

Chris Boardman on
a difficult year
in his cycle of life

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SPORTING
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

Former leisure chiefs convicted

By Jon Ashworth

A FORMER SG Warburg merchant banker who built one of the Eighties' most aggressive leisure companies was convicted yesterday of masterminding a massive share support operation. Michael Ward, former chairman and chief executive of European Leisure, had been accused of rigging the stock market during the 1990 takeover battle for Midsummer Leisure.

Ward, 46, of Chester Square, Belgrave, central London, was convicted of conspiracy to defraud and three charges of theft involving company money. His "right hand man", Jeremy Howarth, was found guilty of a similar conspiracy charge and four charges of theft. Howarth, 49, of Radcliffe Manor, Buckingham, Bucks, was deputy chairman and finance director of European Leisure.

They will be sentenced on March 10, along with George Hendry, former operations director of European Leisure, who admitted conspiracy to defraud before the trial. Hendry, 63, of Beverley Drive, Gibbert Hill, Coventry, ran the company's Scottish operations. The two men were released on bail before sentencing.

A Southwark Crown Court jury delivered majority verdicts after spending four nights in a hotel at the end of a four-month trial. Anthony Donne, QC, prosecuting for the Serious Fraud Office, said hundreds of thousands of pounds of company and directors' personal money had secretly been used to support the share price during a

takeover battle. He said Ward was ruthless, unscrupulous and greedy. "He was not content building his company up by hard work and honest means, he sought to improve it and his own financial position by dishonest means."

Ward, an accountant, once worked for Morgan Grenfell, and was director of international corporate finance at SG Warburg before founding European Leisure in the late 1980s. All three men had massive personal stakes in the company, in their own names and through family trusts. Changes in the share price directly affected their own fortunes.

The court heard how in 1989 Ward had "set his sights" on Midsummer Leisure, a much larger group. Midsummer's directors supported the bid when it was unveiled in April 1990, but poor results from the Mecca Leisure group, sent shock waves through the sector and wiped 20p off European Leisure's share price. The fall left Ward nursing a loss of £1 million.

Midsummer withdrew its support for the bid, triggering a takeover battle in which European Leisure's share price became "absolutely crucial". Mr Donne said Ward began courting support from friends and contacts, deliberately breaching the takeover code in an attempt to create a false picture of the true value of European Leisure stock.

The court heard how sweeteners were used to persuade third parties to buy the shares in an effort to ramp the share price. Ward and Howarth sank more than £90,000 of their own funds into the support operation through Fininvest, a finance company controlled by an Egyptian friend of Ward's who has since moved to the Middle East. Hendry was to hand £100,000 to his friend John Doyle, a Jersey-based taxi driver and bookmaker, towards the purchase of shares.

Ward's former girlfriend Angela Pollard, who handled European Leisure's public relations, used the name of her sister-in-law to invest a further £32,000. Walter Crawford, a Scottish businessman who had done repairs for the leisure company, was alleged to have accepted payments from European Leisure.

Charges against the latter three were dropped on the direction of the judge early in the trial. After hearing the jury's verdicts, Judge Mola Singh, QC, ordered them not to return further findings against Ward and Howarth on an alternative charge of conspiracy to create a false market, and three offences of false accounting against Howarth alone.



Sir Robin Tibbs took shelter from critics in a robust defence of how Lloyds made its profit

Lloyds defends £1.3bn profits

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

LOYD'S BANK defended a 26 per cent rise in 1994 pre-tax profits to £1.3 billion yesterday with an attack on critics who claim the result is excessive and has been achieved by exploiting customers.

Sir Robin Tibbs, the chairman, said: "This is simply not true." He said the improved results came from "tight cost control, concentration on our strengths and a reduction in bad debts".

Staff and shareholders are sharing in the bank's good fortune. Its 43,000 UK staff will participate in a £44 million profit-sharing scheme, paying an average of £1,020, or 6.92 per cent of salary. In 1993, the scheme paid out an average of £785, or 5.65 per cent. Lloyds has also introduced a government-backed profit-related pay scheme that will come into force this year.

The dividend to shareholders was higher than expected, rising 17 per cent to 25.8p. A final 18.5p is due on May 3.

Bad debt provisions fell to £135 million (£503 million). Alistair Darling, the Labour Party's City spokesman, used the opportunity of Lloyds' results to criticise the attitude of banks to their customers. He repeated the call for a bank regulator.

The biggest improvement for Lloyds came from its UK retail banking and insurance operation, where profits were 37 per cent higher, at £437 million. Profits in its corporate banking and treasury business rose 8 per cent, in spite of taking a knock from lower bond dealing profits. Lower dealing profits contributed to a fall of £41 million to £112 million in international banking profits before tax.

Sir Brian Pitman, the chief executive, said that the housing market was flat, with a 21 per cent increase in gross new mortgage lending to £1.7 billion coming from increased market share.

WEEKEND MONEY



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Anne Ashworth
on home income
plans

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A couple's pension
fund wrangle goes
to the Lords

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underground
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PRIVATISATION

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to power



EMERGING MARKETS



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South Africa
putting money on
Mandela's reforms

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET TODAY

FT-SE 100 5182.5 (+10.9)
Yield 4.20%
FT-SE All share 1830.47 (+5.05)
Nikkei 18291.35 (+191.80)
New York
Dow Jones 3893.02 (+0.34)
S&P Composite 489.50 (+0.31)

FX RATE

Federal Funds 5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond 8 3/4% (8 3/4%)
Yield 5.25% (5.25%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank 6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt 10 1/4% (10 1/4%)
Future (Mar)

STERLING

New York 1.5828 (1.5875)
London 1.5619 (1.5565)
DM 2.3777 (2.3788)
FF 5.2250 (5.2300)
FF 2.0075 (2.0115)
Yen 154.32 (153.82)
£ Index 78.6 (78.7)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London 1.5218 (1.5263)
DM 1.2875 (1.2910)
FF 1.2846 (1.2833)
Yen 98.84 (98.90)
£ Index 62.5 (62.7)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN 98.73

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr) \$18.85 (\$16.55)
GOLD
London close \$376.55 (\$376.35)
* denotes midday trading price

Names' victory

A group of names from Lloyd's of London, the embattled insurance market, won a 4 1/2-year legal battle yesterday when the high court ruled that agents had invested their money negligently. The names, from Syndicate 334, now hope to recover up to £80 million in damages. Page 22

MPs support C&G widows over bonus

By Robert Miller

THOUSANDS of Cheltenham & Gloucester widows are celebrating a victory that could help them to share in a £10 million bonus payout from Lloyds Bank.

In a rare display of cross-party political unity, MPs voted yesterday to send a Private Member's Bill, put forward by Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, straight to House of Lords. The Building Societies (Joint Account Holders) Bill could be amended by the Lords.

Mr French said: "The chances of C&G widows receiving a bonus have now increased dramatically." C&G said that as long as members voted for the Lloyds deal in March, it was optimistic that the widows could be paid.

GVG tipped to buy Knight Williams

By Anne Ashworth

SPECULATION is growing that Gerrard Vivian Gray, the stockbroker firm, is preparing to take over the Knight Williams retirement planning group, paying an estimated sum of between £10 million and £12 million.

The parties already have a business link: GVG, which yesterday refused to comment on a prospective takeover, manages about £100 million worth of funds on behalf of Knight Williams, for an estimated fee of £1 million. Knight Williams also stayed uncharacteristically silent.

Knight Williams has been on the market for some months but prospective purchasers, have been deterred by the problems surrounding the company.

Last September, Knight Williams was fined £50,000 by

Fimbra, the watchdog, for breaking ten of the body's rules.

After the establishment of a complaints procedure for clients, at least 240 have lodged complaints and are seeking compensation.

Johnson Fry, the fund management group, was among the companies that looked over the sale prospectus but did not wish to proceed because of the possible compensation bill and other associated issues.

Industry sources maintain that there has been pressure from the investment regulators for a sale.

Although Knight Williams applied for membership of the Personal Investment Authority in March, there is still no news on its prospects of success.

Le Shuttle hit by five-month delay

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor



Sir Alastair, principle

BATTERED shareholders in Eurotunnel have received their latest package of bad news from the Channel Tunnel operator, which yesterday announced further delays of five months in the full operation of its Le Shuttle drive on-drive off service.

The news sent the shares sharply into reverse, and they touched 290p before settling at 298p, a loss of 8p on the day. The company said traffic and revenues in 1995 — the year it had been hoped to see full operation of Tunnel services — would now be lower than expected when the company raised £858 million in a rights issue in May.

Le Shuttle, which ships cars and trucks in wagons between

Folkestone and Calais, will now reach the level of service forecast for July at the time of the rights at the end of this year, the company said.

In addition, the company is in dispute with British Rail and its French equivalent over the amount it should be paid by the two national railways for its Eurostar passenger service to Paris and Brussels last year. The matter is in arbitration and the sums involved are thought to amount to less than £10 million, but Eurotunnel, co-chaired by Sir Alastair Morton, is believed to regard the issue as a matter of principle.

At the time of the rights issue, the company said revenues for 1995 would be as high

as £513 million, but Eurotunnel conceded in October that this total would not be reached. At the same time, the company said that delays would reduce 1994 revenues to a quarter of the £135 million forecast with the rights issue, and that total was yesterday reported at £30.6 million.

The latest disappointment from Eurotunnel has raised fears that further financing may be needed before the Tunnel is entirely operational. The company said yesterday that despite the loss of revenue, net cash at the end of 1994 was just £11 million below the £242 million forecast at the time of the rights.

Travellers stay away, page 23



The heart of the North

A new message to
Northern Electric
shareholders.

David Morris, Chairman of Northern Electric,
can be heard on:

FREEPHONE 0800 771177

expressing his views on the bid
for Northern Electric by Trafalgar House.

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Names' court win opens way to £80m payment

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London names won a new courtroom victory yesterday, when a judge ruled that the agents who invested their money during the 1980s had acted negligently. The ruling clears the way for a payment of up to £80 million.

Some 378 names had been fighting for 4½ years to recoup big losses on asbestos claims dating back before 1975. Their success follows last year's historic Gooda Walker victory in the High Court, which cleared the way for the payment of up to £504 million in damages.

Members of the Syndicate 334 (1985) Names Association had been suing their agents over losses arising in the 1985 underwriting year. They claimed damages for breach of contract and negligence against their members' agents, and negligence against Pulbrook Underwriting Management, the managing agents who selected the risk to be underwritten.

The Syndicate 334 action hinged on a single case of alleged negligence involving the writing of a reinsurance contract in 1981. The policy

was declared void in 1990 because Pulbrook had failed to disclose various matters material to the assessment of risk underwritten. That left names exposed to losses estimated at £80 million. The judge, Mr Justice Potter, gave no indication of the size of any award.

Clive Francis, leader of the Syndicate 334 names, hailed the judgment as an "unquestionable" victory which gave hope to other names fighting their managing agents over long-tail insurance claims. Mr Francis, a retired fighter pilot who claims to have suffered losses of £3 million at Lloyd's, said the win "gives me no great pleasure. We're seeing a great British institution dying".

The judgment potentially allows the Syndicate 334 names to recover a substantial part of their losses from managing agents — provided the money is available for distribution. That will depend on the extent of errors and omissions insurance taken out by the agents to cover potential claims. The court case had been given only a 2 per cent chance of success by Lloyd's.



Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, touring a Philips components plant in Durham yesterday after opening a £16 million extension. It will create an additional 300 jobs and is the first part of a £50 million investment

C&W hopes for Indonesia telecom stake

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE AND WIRELESS will learn within a few weeks whether it has won the contest to buy a 25 per cent stake in Satelit Palapa Indonesia, a fast-growing Indonesian telecommunications company, for up to \$600 million. The purchase

would mark C&W's biggest investment outside Britain after Hong Kong Telecom, in which it owns 57.5 per cent.

C&W would not confirm or deny that it is on the shortlist of bidders for the Indonesian telecommunications company, known as Satelit. The other main contender,

Deutsche Telekom, would not comment either.

Analysts said that Satelit fits in line with C&W's investment strategy of going after the emerging second player in a high-growth market. C&W, for example, has become the dominant telecoms provider in the Ca-

ribbean and holds a 25 per cent interest in Optus Communications, Australia's second largest telecoms provider.

Satelit, which is only two years old, has licences for satellite communications, through its Palapa satellites, mobile phones and direct-dial international calls.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BAA in talks to build Philippines terminal

BAA, the airport operator, has confirmed that it is in advanced talks to join a consortium of Filipino businessmen to build a new airport terminal in Manila. The deal, if successful, will be the company's most significant overseas investment to date. The company is expected to take a 40 per cent stake in the project to develop a terminal capable of handling 10 million passengers a year, making it as large as each of Gatwick's terminals. BAA will be working with Asia's Emerging Dragons Corporation, a group of six leading local businessmen.

The group also intends to develop Clark, the former US Air Force Base, as a regional airport north of Manila. The aim is to develop an airport that will be able to handle up to 3 million passengers by the year 2003. A spokeswoman for BAA said the company was extremely keen to develop its interests in South-East Asia. The group is also expected to bid for several of Australia's airports when they are put up for sale in April. The company hopes to complete the joint venture within weeks.

Forte debts to jump

DEBTS at Forte, the hotels group, will leap £460 million in its next set of figures, because of new FRS5 accounting rules on sale and leasebacks. The group has sold and leased back more than 50 hotels, Travelodge Inns and Little Chef roadside restaurants. However, Forte's auditors have insisted that the group take the majority back on its balance sheet. Profits, meanwhile, will be £10 million lower than expected in 1994-95, because of the same accounting standard. *Tempus, page 24*

CIA in media takeover

CIA GROUP, the fast-growing advertising buyer and planner, has acquired Mansfield Lang Direct Media, a London direct media specialist which focuses on direct response, for up to £2 million. CIA is paying an initial £497,500 in cash and shares, with further payments of up to £1.5 million depending on MLD's future profit. Ken Mansfield, head of MLD, and Sharon Lang have signed service agreements with MLD to stay with the company until at least April 1997.

Arcadian buys hotels

ARCADIAN INTERNATIONAL, the hotels and property group, has completed its acquisition of two hotels for £10.3 million. The purchase of the Mollington Banastre, Cheshire, and the Haycock Hotel in Peterborough, which have a total of 115 bedrooms, has been funded by a £13.8 million placing and open offer. Arcadian said yesterday that the placing has been completed with both new and existing institutional shareholders subscribing for the shares.

Ashanti going for gold

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS, the Lonrho-managed Ghanaian gold mining company that returned to the London stock exchange lists last year after an international share placing, is sweeping through Africa in search of gold. Yesterday it announced a joint venture with South Africa's Johannesburg Consolidated Investment group to develop the Kalana gold mine in Mali, which closed in 1991. Ashanti has recently established exploration offices in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

BARCLAYCARD

Notification of an Interest Rate Change

Barclaycard announces a change in the monthly interest rate. The monthly interest charged will be increased from 1.585% to 1.65%.

This increase will begin to affect transactions made from 1 March 1995 and will be charged and shown on cardholder statements issued from 1 April 1995 onwards until further notice. No interest is charged if the whole of the outstanding balance is repaid and received by Barclaycard by the payment due date shown on the statement.

Barclaycard Reserve announces an increase in the monthly rate of interest charged from 1.585% to 1.65%. Interest at the new rate, calculated on the daily outstanding balance, will be charged and shown on statements issued from 1 March 1995 and thereafter until further notice.

Clause 3(iii) of the Barclaycard Conditions of Use is amended accordingly.

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Wimpey buys McAlpine sites

GEORGE WIMPEY, the housebuilder and contractor, is paying £43.5 million for Alfred McAlpine Minerals Holdings, a chain of 16 quarries and five asphalt plants with total reserves of 100 million tonnes based largely in Central Scotland and North and South Wales.

The deal places Wimpey Minerals as the fifth largest producer of drystone quarried minerals in Britain and the fourth largest in coated stone. Joe Dwyer, chief executive

of Wimpey, said the quarries, bought from Alfred McAlpine, another quoted building group, are located in regions of the country where Wimpey already operates a minerals business. The group believes, therefore, that cost savings of more than £1 million are possible from the business, which made £1 million in operating profits in the year to December 1993.

Mr Dwyer added: "I am confident that the contributions from our new purchase

will at least cover the interest and rationalisation costs in the first year of activity."

For its part, Alfred McAlpine said the disposal was expected to be earnings-neutral, with interest savings on borrowings that would be wiped out by the proceeds of the sale largely covering the lost profits. Any gain arising from the disposal would also not attract tax because of earlier write-offs.

Tempus, page 24

Accountants suspended for 30 days

CASSON BECKMAN, the accountancy firm, has been suspended from carrying on investment business for 30 days after a partner misappropriated an estimated £2 million from his clients, including Robert Palmer, the rock star (Robert Bruce writes).

The financial services authorisation committee of the English ICA has announced that the firm, which ranks 19th in the UK with total fees of about £21 million a year, has been suspended from February 6. This is the longest suspension the committee can order, but it can apply for further extensions of the ban.

Casson Beckman was inspected by the institute's joint monitoring unit. Marc Vouters, of Casson Beckman, said that "we anticipate a clean bill of health as soon as the institute has completed its review".

The irregularities came to light last December and James Goldring later resigned.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.20	2.00
Austria S	17.72	16.22
Belgium F	51.88	47.68
Canada C	1.28	1.27
Cyprus Cyp	0.775	0.720
Denmark D	6.57	6.12
Finland M	7.50	7.12
France F	6.55	6.12
Germany M	365.00	368.00
Greece Dr	15.67	11.67
Hong Kong \$	1.05	0.97
Ireland P	262.00	247.00
Italy L	1.00	0.95
Japan Yen	169.00	162.00
Netherlands G	0.613	0.58
Norway Kr	2.813	2.585
Portugal Esc	12.49	10.10
Spain Ptas	206.00	207.50
Sweden Kr	212.00	198.00
Switzerland Fr	12.19	11.38
Switzerland Fr	2.14	1.98
Turkey Lira	1.00	0.435
USA \$	1.00	1.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Gerald Ronson interview

Yes, I am back in the game and it's very exciting. We want to do some major transactions. I'm rocking and rolling...

Business special on Gerald Ronson. Only in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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This dream is now being realised at Lochranza, where we are opening the first legal distillery on the Isle of Arran for over 150 years. The first Arran malt will be coming off the still in the spring of this year.

What will Isle of Arran single malt be like? It has been said that when whisky was last made on the island, it was claimed to be the best in Scotland.

With the quality of Arran's air and water, I am

confident that we will be making one of Scotland's great malts and I invite you to reserve your stock now, by becoming a Founder Bondholder.

Founder Bondholders will have their own exclusive reserve which is obtainable at distillery prices - no retailers or other distributors involved.

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HAROLD CURRIE

Chairman of Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, former Managing Director of Chivas Bros., and House of Campbell and former general manager of the Scotch Whisky Association.

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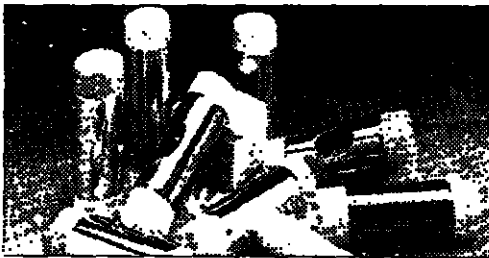
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For a brochure, telephone 01290 553255, fax 01290 550177, or post the coupon to Harold Currie, Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd, 1, The Cross, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 6DA

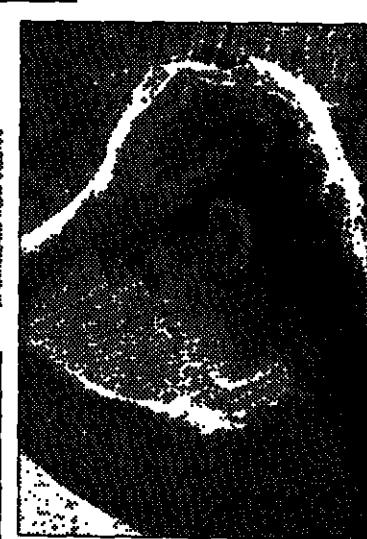
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BBA: Vanni Treves and Bob Quarta

Quiet lawyer who released the 'Coiled Spring'

The tough stuff is just beginning but the hard man and the soft man are setting about a huge restructuring programme with a will, writes Susan Gilchrist

partners in power

When it comes to hard man/soft man routines, there could be no better exponents than Bob Quarta and Vanni Treves of BBA, the engineering and motor components group. Quarta, an aggressive Italian-American industrialist trained at the BTR charm school, is the ultimate hard man. Known as "Bob-the-Knife" in business circles, he is a small, pug-nacious individual who looks as though he has stepped straight out of a Francis Ford Coppola gangster film. In sharp contrast, Vanni Treves, a senior partner of Macfarlanes, the blue chip City law firm, is the epitome of the urbane lawyer.

This unlikely duo came together less than 18 months ago when Treves recruited Quarta to help to turn BBA round. The company was feeling the financial effects of an eight-year spending spree under John White, its previous chief executive, who was widely seen as an acquisition junkie.

It was an awesome task, but Treves had no doubt that Quarta was the man for the job. "The thing that struck me about him is that he is a self-made man, which I admire enormously. He comes from a humble background — his father was a tailor — yet he was appointed to the main board of BTR, one of our most successful conglomerates, in his thirties." That is no mean achievement to a man like Treves, who, if the truth be known, is something of a BTR groupie.

Quarta certainly got to work in a BTR-like manner. Within months of joining he axed 2,000 jobs, forced through a £77 million restructuring charge — more than twice what the City had been expecting — and pledged to slash the dividend.

Treves insists he never balked at any of Quarta's actions. "We wanted him to be radical and I trusted his judgment. BBA had lost direction and there was a need for a new beginning. When Bob came in and said: 'Right, this is what I think needs doing, do you agree?' by and large we did."

Treves agrees that Quarta is aggressive but thinks that his reputation as a cold and ruthless businessman is undeserved. "The description 'Bob-the-Knife' is just nonsense. He has done no more than you would expect someone in

his position to do. He is actually a very fair man and I think there is a very proper streak of sentimentality about him which I applaud." Nevertheless, Treves does understand how Quarta earned his other nickname, "Coiled Spring."

"He does possess a tremendous amount of barely-sublimated energy. One feels that at any time the lid of the box could come off and he could come flying out. But then he is a driven man, who works extremely hard and is extremely ambitious."

In spite of this ambition, Treves says there is no rivalry between them. "He doesn't want my job and I certainly don't want his. As an American client of mine said in another context: 'I don't need the power, I don't need the money and I don't need the aggression.'"

He believes their contrasting backgrounds in law and industry are a healthy mix. "He is an industrialist to his fingertips. I am not and don't pretend to be. But I do know how the City thinks." He says Quarta is an energetic, hands-on manager who loves rolling up his sleeves and visiting factories. It is hard to imagine the smooth Treves being comfortable in such an environment. While Quarta is a straight-talking businessman, saying exactly what he thinks, Treves is more elliptical. In speech, he is very careful to choose his words, but often to disguise rather than enhance his meaning.

The two do have one thing in common — both were born in Italy, although Treves concedes Quarta is the more typically Italian of the two. "But it means I understand what makes him tick," he adds.

Although they meet nearly every day — Macfarlanes' offices are a short walk from BBA's new headquarters in Fleet Street, central London — they also have a formal get-together every six months to review progress and each other.

The last one was, says Treves, a positive affair. And the venue? Appropriately, a small Italian restaurant in New York.

Bob Quarta was a high-flyer at BTR and was even seen as a contender for the top job. Nevertheless, being chief executive at BBA was an offer he could not refuse. "It had all the makings of the excitement I was looking for," he says, conceding that he is a man who likes large doses of commercial adrenalin.

In spite of his more aggressive style, he warmed to Treves immediately. "I thought he was very distinguished but also laid-back, the type who didn't wear a jacket just to sit around and have a talk."

He instinctively knew they could work together, and he says Treves has been unfailingly supportive, however radical his actions.

"I think the size of the rationalisation provision took him by surprise but he recognised it had to be done. Vanni has been a great ally. When you come into a job like this it is lonely and you need someone to talk to. You are coming in and making huge changes but you don't know who you can trust. It's nice to be able to pick up the phone and chat with him. Vanni was always there. But then he was the one who got the horse in, so he has to back it."

He agrees there could hardly be a greater contrast between the two of them. Treves is a classic establishment figure who holds senior positions at the National Portrait Gallery, Royal Academy of Arts and J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust along with his business interests, whereas he concedes he is more of a maverick.

"I am unconventional and I often do the unexpected. At BTR I was brought up to take risks but I am not a gambler. It is all about taking calculated risks." He believes the scale of the £77 million provision

was a calculated risk, but insists it was the right thing for the business.

Like Treves he rejects the mythology that has built up around him. "I guess some people think I am ruthless because I make tough decisions. Out of the two names, I prefer 'Coiled Spring'. I can't sit still and I get bored very easily. I remember the headhunter who got me into BBA said: 'I have never had an interview like it. I am used to people sitting on the couch to talk, but you got up every two minutes and started walking round the office.' I have always been like that."

Quarta also talks at a million miles an hour, a typical trait of those who prefer life in the fast lane. As a young man he believed this insatiable desire for excitement could be satisfied by becoming an FBI agent. But a spell in the army during the Vietnam War soon opened his eyes. "By the time I got through that I knew government service was not for me," he says.

He tried the business world instead and has never looked back. He believes he would never have got this far if it had not been for the vision of some of his bosses. "I have been fortunate in that I have always worked for people who recognised that I wanted to move faster than normal. In my first job the firm had this 16-week training programme where you went from department to department. Well, I can assure you I didn't last 16 weeks. That could have been disaster because they could have just thrown me out, but fortunately they didn't. I have been lucky that the people above me always recognised I was a little different and always knew when I was about to get bored. Then they just gave me a bit more and a bit more. Vanni is just the same."

He knows that the really hard work at BBA is just beginning. The group still has some way to go in its wide-ranging disposal programme and Quarta has set a target of achieving double-digit margins by next year. While he may have proved he can cut costs, his critics claim he will find it harder to generate growth — an allegation he firmly rejects. "I know some people think I came out of a slash and burn mentality, but when I was at BTR I actually grew businesses," says Quarta. Perhaps he is not just the hard man everyone thinks he is.



Vanni Treves, left, chairman, and Bob Quarta, chief executive: different paths from Italy to BBA

Eurostar joins up the capitals but the passengers stay away

Ross Tieman took the train to Paris and found empty seats all around him

High-speed rail services between Britain and France are scarcely three months old, but appear to be on route for commercial disaster.

Many of the 800-seat trains on the London-Brussels route are running almost empty. Between London and Paris loadings are woefully inadequate.

On the 17.48 from London to Paris this week, there were fewer than ten people in my 52-seat coach. Almost all the travellers were French. Returning on the 12.12 next day, less than half the seats were taken.

Not a single flight has been cancelled by the train's airline rivals. Even though London-Paris is the busiest air route in Europe, with 3.65 million travellers a year, the trains, each costing £20 million of taxpayers' money in 1988 prices, have failed to capture any significant proportion of the traffic, despite comparable city centre to centre journey times.

British Airways, which with its partner airlines operates 24 daily flights each way between London and Paris, says the impact of the train has been minimal. A spokeswoman for Air France, which flies 13 times a day in each direction, estimated the drop in numbers at about 7 per cent.

Put simply, the three national railway companies that

are partners in the Eurostar service have introduced too much capacity and made too little effort to sell it.

The Eurostar trains are twice the size of conventional high-speed trains, comprising two power cars and 18 coaches offering almost 800 seats. Four trains are running every weekday to Paris, and three to Brussels, with the same number coming back.

This is a very large rise in capacity on these routes. Civil Aviation Authority figures show that during 1993 an average of 9,990 passengers travelled from London to Paris every day.

Eurostar is now offering 3,200 seats a day on that route — an extremely lumpy increase in capacity. But how many passengers are likely to switch?

Air France says 60 per cent of its London-Paris travellers are connecting with onward flights. BA's figure is about 40 per cent. So in real terms, Eurostar's four daily trains to Paris have multiplied city-centre to city-centre capacity on the route from around 5,000 passengers to about 8,200.

British Midland, another

competitor, estimates that in the long term, the airlines may lose 20 per cent of their traffic. If so, Eurostar is already offering more capacity than it needs to win its long-term market share.

From London to Brussels, the scenario is even worse. Air traffic between London and Brussels during 1993 was 1,159,855 passengers, an average of 1,589 travellers from London each day. Eurostar's three daily trains offer 2,400 seats. No wonder they are empty.

Eurostar may hesitate to sell its services too heavily until mechanical reliability is assured. But if the three-nation consortium is to stem its mounting losses, sooner or later it must make a serious effort to attract huge numbers of new travellers to both routes.

Will it do so? The omens are poor. Although the experience of travelling from the centre of London to the centre of Paris compares favourably with the journey by air, for economy passengers the airlines win easily on frequency, price and service. British Midland offers hot towels, free food, free

drinks and the chance to shop duty free for £68 plus £7.40 in taxes. Its rivals are little cheaper.

The train's minimum fare is £95 return. In-transit service is an infrequent, and expensive, drinks trolley. There is no entertainment, no cossetting.

A "fully-flexible" second-class ticket costs £155, although staff say that if you change your return reservation in Paris, you will have to buy a new ticket, and claim a refund later.

But a first class return fare of £195, including free five course meal and drinks each way, compares favourably with the £250 equivalent from Air France.

Eurostar is concentrating on the wrong market. It is price-cutting on first class fares, perhaps to compensate for its infrequent services. But instead of trying to create a new market by offering high standard economy travel at low prices, it is charging more than the airlines, for an inferior service. Even more astounding, it is rationing the cheap seats, preferring to haul empty trains. This is madness.

Eurostar should have bought more, much smaller trains with in-transit entertainment. Only one strategy will save it now. Having piled seats high, it must sell 'em cheap.



Acres of space in a Eurostar carriage: the airlines say the train's impact on their figures has been minimal

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Money Observer, January 1995

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

United Biscuits jumps as suitors are sighted



Sir Rocco Forte saw shares slip after statement

IT LOOKS as though the long-awaited bid for United Biscuits, the McVitie's, KP and Crawford's food group, may finally be on the way. Its shares stood out in late trading with a leap of 23p to 365p, giving the company a stock market value of almost £2 billion. This compares with a price of 305p back in October.

By the close of business last night more than 3.5 million shares had changed hands with further heavy trading taking place on the traded options market where more than 700 call options were completed, equivalent to 700,000 shares. Much of the call activity was focused on the February 360p series which expires next week. Speculators were paying 25p for the out-of-the-money options.

UB is seen by fund managers as the most eligible takeover target on the London stock market because of its strong brand names. They say it is not a question of when the company is bid for, but by whom. The speculators say an opening shot of at least 400p a share will be required.

Front-runner among the bidders remains Nestlé, the Swiss food group, which in the mid-eighties bought Rowntree Macintosh. Other predators are said to include Danone from France, Philip Morris, the US food and tobacco group, Hanson, up 2p at 245p ahead of figures next week, and an Austrian food group.

Share prices generally recovered from a hesitant start to extend Thursday's strong gains and breach the 3,100 level. The FT-SE 100 index up almost 16 points early on, eventually reduced its lead to 10.9 at 3,109.9, a rise on the week of 50.2.

Investors took the latest US inflation numbers in their stride, but prices showed signs of running out of steam towards the close after confirmation of the latest gilts auction and an opening fall on Wall Street. Turnover slipped below the level of recent days with a total of 555 million shares traded.

Lloyds Bank kicked off the dividend season for the Big Four Banks with full-year figures bang line with City expectations. Pre-tax profits advanced from £1.03 billion to £1.3 billion, helped by a sharp drop in bad debt provisions from £503 million to £135 million and a cost-cutting programme. The total div-

dend was raised 17 per cent to 25.8p. Brokers described underlying profits growth as disappointing, although there were signs of a pick-up in lending. This did not deter investors, with the shares adding 15p at 565p. Lloyds Abbey Life, its 63 per cent separately quoted offshoot which reported earlier this week, was unchanged at 357p. The rest of the banks posted

discounts on future spending. The Clubcard will be launched on Monday, allowing shoppers to clock up points on their cards linked to the level of spending at the supermarket and worth up to 1 per cent of the total spent. Tesco responded to the initiative with a rise of 5p to 249p. J Sainsbury, which has also announced plans to issue a similar card next month, firmed 2p to 421p.

Siebert firmed 2p to 540p after a buy recommendation from Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker. Henderson says that, after a dismal performance in the past 18 months, the shares should start to outperform as the increasingly favourable trading environment for the company percolates through to the City.

modest gains, with Abbey National 3p better at 440p. Bank of Scotland 5p to 209p. Barclays 13p to 616p. National Westminster 19p to 509p, and Royal Bank of Scotland 11p to 420p.

There are signs of recovery among the supermarket chains as Tesco confirmed City speculation and launched an electronic loyalty card enabling customers to accrue points to take advantage of

Argyll also hardened 2p to 271p. Forte, the hotel and leisure group, slipped 3p to 242p in spite of an encouraging trading statement. The group reported that turnover in the second half had been steady and that occupancy rates in its London hotels continued to improve.

It was a different story for shareholders in Eurotunnel, which saw its shares lose 73,000. Among conventional issues the biggest falls were seen at the longer end with Treasury 8 per cent 2000 falling 10p to 951.5p, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 fell 10p to 951.5p.

NEW YORK: Share prices were mixed on Wall Street in response to a weaker bond market. Prices at midday were mixed. The Dow Jones Industrial average stood at 3,933.02, higher by 0.34 points.

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ground in both London and Paris after issuing a warning about current trading. The company said that revenues in 1995 will fall short of the figure projected at the time of the rights issue in May last year. The group blamed the effect of delays and the constraints on the build-up of the operation and subsequent traffic. Revenue figures for 1994 revealed a final figure of £30.6 million.

T&N, the automotive components group, advanced 6p to 164p in the wake of reports claiming the group is about to announce a cut in the dividend and £100 million worth of disposals. The measures are said to be aimed at improving its standing in the City. There is also talk that the company is planning a major stake in Kolbenschmidt, the German motor components group partly owned by Commerzbank and Metallgesellschaft. The option on the stake expires at the end of March.

There was further heavy turnover in shares of Ramco, the USM-quoted oil services group, which recently turned its hand to exploring in the Caspian Sea. The price climbed 17p to 338p as a line of 520,000 shares went through the market at 340p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts suffered sharp losses at the medium and longer end of the market after the Bank of England disappointed traders and pitched the next auction on February 22, at the ten-year area. Dealers had been anticipating the short end to absorb the Government's latest fundraising exercise.

Prices opened lower and drifted throughout the rest of the session, although the latest US producer price numbers were seen as positive by bond markets generally.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt tumbled 1/4 to £101 1/4 as the number of contracts completed reached 73,000.

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MAJOR INDICES

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Dow Jones 3933.02 (+0.34)
S&P Composite 480.30 (+0.31)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18291.35 (+191.80)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 8012.82 (+42.06)

Amsterdam:
BOE Index 4154.4 (+0.97)

Sydney:
ASX 1846.0 (+12.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2130.15 (+17.46)

Singapore:
Straits 2074.08 (+10.96)

Brussels:
General 7103.15 (+31.03)

Paris:
CAC-40 1869.40 (+5.04)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 633.20 (+0.90)

London:
FT 30 2364.8 (+6.6)
FT 100 3109.9 (+10.9)
FTSE Mid 250 3454.1 (+13.4)
FTSE Europe 100 1348.30 (+1.28)
FT All-Share 1530.47 (+5.05)
FT Non Financials 1657.48 (+4.27)
FT Global Index 302.7 (+0.23)
FT Fixed Interest 110.45 (+0.02)
FT Govt Secs 91.23 (+0.54)
Bargains 23616
S&P Volume 1438.36 (+0.13)
USM (Daxterm) 15607.10 (+0.0053)
German Mark 23785.00 (+0.0002)
Exchange Index 76.8 (+0.01)
Bank of England Official Close (p.m.) 1.2553
ESON 1.2596
NPI 146.0 (2.9%) Jan 1995-100

RECENT ISSUES

First Russ Fts (\$10) 570 -3
Lazard Bifa 54 1/2 +4
Lazard Bifa Ws 32 -1
MCTT S Cap (35) 34 -1
MCTT S Inc (35) 36 -1
Matheson Lyds IT (100) 81 -1
Pentec Oil 90 -1
Wessex Trust 11 +1
Woodchester Uts 125 -1

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225) 24 -1
Cadbury Schweis n/p 74 +5
Dares Estates n/p (4) 4 -1
Verity n/p (74) 4 -1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
Barclays 612p (+8p)
Bentley 152p (+8p)
Benson 275p (+8p)
Hawthorn 259p (+8p)
Delta 468p (+8p)
Tadpole Tech 250p (+8p)
Senior Eng 75p (+8p)
T&N 164p (+8p)
Edi Biscuits 365p (+23p)
Com Union 528p (+10p)
Gen Accident 547p (+7p)
Transatlantic 318p (+8p)
Thomson Corp 775p (+10p)
VTR 89p (+5p)
Ramco Energy 338p (+17p)
Flying Flowers 98p (+9p)
Frost Group 226p (+9p)
Bosworth Int 283p (+9p)
Mountainview 1075p (+5p)
Tasco 245p (+5p)
Body Shop 779p (+10p)
Fine Art Dev 345p (+17p)
Biotech Inv 155p (+6p)
Cater Allen 446p (+6p)
Zeneca 899p (+6p)

FALLS:
Inchope 302p (-5p)
BICC 322p (-6p)
MAM 757p (-7p)
Eurotunnel Uts 289p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

Black Horse gallop

A 6 PER CENT fall in operating profits of Lloyds Bank, to £1.41 billion, did not look promising. But strip out lower dealing profits, lower interest received relating to problem country debt, and a £60 million provision to cover pension mis-selling, and the underlying performance was actually rather good last year.

The fall in the trading surplus masked an improvement in volumes and margins in what Sir Brian Pimman, chief executive, dubbed "priority target segments".

Most of the underlying growth last year came from mortgage loans, but the signal from Lloyds was that further growth in its other UK businesses is on its way.

The bank is picking up small business customers, and its share of the student market reached 24 per cent, far out of proportion with its overall market share. Sir Brian said that

the UK business was beginning to grow again with a pick-up in demand from personal and small business customers, though margins on corporate loans are still under pressure.

An encouraging sign was the increase in the domestic net interest margin of 13 basis points, to 4 per cent, during the year. The Lloyds performance does well for the banking sector and recent rises in interest rates will help.

The big problem facing Lloyds is who will succeed Sir Brian. He has extended his tenure twice, and is now expected to leave at the end of next year. To extend his stay a third time would signal a succession crisis. Although Sir Robin Ibbotson, chairman, asserts that Lloyds "takes the chairmanship extremely seriously", there is no obvious successor. The bank needs to stop dodging the question and spell out its plans.

competitor, into bid talks announced a week ago.

Wimpey is buying the bulk of McAlpine's minerals business for a price that equates to 20 or more times historic earnings on paper, falling to 14 times once Wimpey cuts costs by combining it with its own operations.

More significantly, profits from quarrying materials

are rising, boosted by a 10 per cent volume improvement in 1994 and a 6 to 8 per cent rise in prices, which explains the mismatch between the £1 million the McAlpine operations made in 1993 and expected operating profits of £3 million last year. McAlpine ends with no debt, but at the cost of one profitable business.

group's competitors will surely follow its lead. Both Sainsbury and Argill are already trialling similar cards and Sainsbury has a wealth of experience to draw on with Homebase's Save & Spend card scheme. That is likely to spark a card war with the latest entrant trying to beat everyone else's discounts. That cannot be good news for the sector, which was beginning to stabilise after the price wars.

Both sides are throwing around numbers for the cost of the scheme. Sainsbury says Tesco needs sales increases of 5 per cent to break even: Tesco claims the figure is much lower. In truth, it is probably about 2 per cent.

While everyone can argue about the numbers, there is no denying the benefits from the customer information the Clubcard will provide. Tesco will know who its customers are, what they buy, how much they spend and how often they visit. That is valuable information in an industry as competitive as this.

The trouble is that should the scheme succeed, the

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MINERALS DEFICIENCY

McAlpine

FT-SE all share price index

1993 1994 1995

Source: Datastream

McAlpine

FT-SE all share price index

1993 1994 1995

Source: Datastream

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FT-SE all share price index

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1993 1994 1995

Source: Datastream

SHARE WATCH 28

The drug sector comes under the microscope

WEEKEND MONEY

NEW HORIZONS 32

Investors beat a cautious path to South Africa



The fate of retirement funds when marriages fail is taxing judges and Parliament, Jill Insley reports

Divorce sparks a battle for pension

The House of Lords is to rule on an important case that will help to clarify the complicated issue of pension rights for divorced couples.

Douglas and Anne Brooks, who are getting divorced after 12 years of married life in Berkshire, are locked in legal combat over who should benefit from Mr Brooks's pension. Mr Brooks is taking the dispute to the House of Lords after the lower courts found against him.

The Court of Appeal last year supported the initial ruling that Mrs Brooks was entitled to a share in her husband's pension — a fund believed to be worth more than £500,000.

The case has been hailed as a landmark in the treatment of spouses' pensions in England and Wales. Although Scottish courts divide up pension values in the same way as other assets 'belonging to divorcing couples, English courts have traditionally taken a more tentative approach.

They have taken the view that they lacked power to touch a pension accumulated in the name of one partner, typically the husband.

More often than not, this has meant that a wife ends up with the family home, but no pension, while her ex-husband receives all the retirement benefits but has no roof over his head.

This crude approach has failed to recognise the importance of pension savings — most people's biggest asset after their home.

The Brooks split six years ago, after Mr Brooks started a relationship with a holiday camp entertainer.

Mrs Brooks's lawyer, Martin Ison, an associate with Paisner, the London firm of solicitors, says that Mr Brooks has made it very clear that he does not want to give up any of his pension rights.

"Mr Brooks's position, as stated, is that he was only going to give Mrs Brooks a certain amount. She either accepted or rejected

it — without full disclosure of his assets," Mr Ison said. "He also made it clear during the trial that he would not have the pension policies interfered with in any way."

Mr Brooks will appeal on April 5 to the Lords. If he loses, the divorce courts could face a flood of claims from spouses wanting a share of their partner's retirement income.

Mr Ison says: "Most pension problems are created by the existence of the pension in favour of the husband where the wife is at home. It is that which created such an enormous interest."

A recent Prudential advertisement points out that the only step most women took to fund their retirement was to marry, as they then supposed, for life.

However, Richard Malone, of Noble Lowndes and vice-president of the Pensions Management Institute, says: "In the UK, there are 400,000 marriages and 150,000 divorces each year. Over the course of a decade, the size of this problem is mounting. It is a big problem for the country."

The Pensions Management Institute would like the Government to amend the Pensions Bill, currently before Parliament, to allow courts to share out occupational and personal pension rights between divorcing parties.

In 1992, the Pensions Management Institute and the Law Society appointed a working group funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to investigate the treatment of pension rights in divorce cases. The group concluded that pension rights should be valued by using the same statutory cash equivalent as that used for calculating transfer payments, and that courts' powers to share out pension rights should extend to both the working population and pensioners.

Although the Goodie Committee, whose report formed the foundation of the Pensions Bill, proposed that these recommendations be added to the new legislation, the Govern-



Anne Brooks says she has earned a share of the pension for running the home and being a general dogsbody in her working life

ment omitted to include a section on pensions and divorce.

Mr Malone says: "There have been situations where pension schemes have been accused of being out of touch with social changes — for example on job changes. Here's a situation where we were trying to take the initiative and the Government is hesitating."

However, Fairshares, a campaign group set up to lobby for legislation allowing the courts to include pensions in the assets to be divided between divorcees, hopes that amendments will be made to the Pensions Bill in the House of Lords at committee stage this month.

Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton and a supporter of Fairshares, says: "If it doesn't happen in the House of Lords, I'll be waiting for them in the Commons."

Meanwhile, Mrs Brooks, who is 56 and lives in

Sunningdale, Berkshire, must wait until the House of Lords makes its decision to finalise her divorce.

She says: "I earned the pension for running the home and being a general dogsbody throughout my married life. We had posh cars, exotic holidays, an expensive lifestyle ... Now, I only have my old age pension."

Mr Brooks was unavailable for comment.

■ Fiona Price & Partners publish *The Divorced Women's Survival Kit*, a guide to preparing for divorce, achieving settlement and planning post-divorce. The guide can be ordered by sending a cheque for £2.95 to Fiona Price & Partners, 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Cuts aimed at broken families

The Government looks set to meet fierce opposition if it forces through proposals to abolish income-support payments to divorced or separated people who took out business loans or other loans secured on their homes while they were married. Many of these people set up businesses in the late 1980s, only to see them collapse in the recession.

The proposals, contained in an internal social security memorandum, are likely to be included in a consultative document to be issued next week by the Social Security Advisory Committee, which advises the Social Security Department. Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has already announced big cuts to income support for mortgage borrowers from October, but many of the details have still not been announced.

Housing advisers and lenders say that any move to withdraw income support for these loan payments would leave more divorced people, particularly women, facing repossession. The Council of Mortgage Lenders has repeatedly said that plans to cut income support will increase the numbers of repossessions.

Many couples took out loans secured on their homes when house prices were rising and people had more equity in their property. Secured loans were taken out to fund businesses, to buy cars and, increasingly, to pay off other debts. But if they subsequently divorced or separated, the wife was often left with a large debt and the threat of repossession if she could not pay.

Under the present system, if you are divorced or separated and your former partner cannot, or will not, make repayments on a secured loan, you can claim income support to cover payments if you have little enough income or savings to qualify for state help. If payments are not made, lenders can repossess, even if the loan is not in your name. Separated couples are exempt from rules restricting most people from claiming income support for secured loans that are not used to buy the house or pay for what the social security department considers necessary repairs and improvements.

Mr Lilley has made it clear that borrowers will be expected to take out their own insurance to cover mortgage payments if they lose their jobs or cannot work through illness or disability.

But the Association of British Insurers said: "Cover against the financial consequences of divorce has in the past been included in a very few creditor insurance schemes, but is not presently available in mortgage-payment protection policies."

SARA MCCONNELL

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Power to the people

Come Valentine's Day, some 2½ million people will have registered for the sale of the Government's remaining shares in National Power and PowerGen. The companies, at least, must hope that nothing like that number actually buy shares and keep them. Huge share registers are costly for all but the biggest companies to run and make communications with shareholders inflexible. In reality, the promoters assume most of the new investors will be transitory, keeping their shares only until they have had the benefit of paying by instalments. But the power sale and the possible later privatisations of Railtrack and the Post Office, will surely give another final push to the bandwagon of wider share ownership.

At the same time, however, the expense and inconvenience of trading small numbers of shares is threatening to disenfranchise the new generation of investors that the City and the Government encouraged to venture beyond utility stocks. They are likely either to lose their direct connection with the companies they invest in, or to be charged for the privilege. Market forces are pushing all but wealthy investors insistently into collective investments.

As letters from readers of *The Times* testify, ever more traditional investors are being cajoled into holding their shares via nominees. Investors in personal equity plans, whose tax concessions are the main spur to investment in shares after privatisation, have no choice. Under the planned new settlement systems for share dealings, which have already led to the leisurely old



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Investment Strategy

Stock Exchange trading account being abolished, nominees will become the norm for investors who trade their shares, if not for those who just sit on shares in a few privatised utilities.

There is nothing sinister about this. If the nominee system is more efficient, it should take over. There are, however, two problems. Unless the nominee holding is arranged by the company you are investing in, you are usually charged for the privilege and lose the non-financial rights of being a shareholder.

Last month, ProShare, the body set up to represent individual investors, published a simple draft code that would restore those rights. Its research found that most investors follow their shares regularly, and want the usual shareholder rights and information, even if they do not understand a lot of it. This is evidently surprising many in the business establishment. But it should not. Frankly, investors who do not even want to receive a company's annual report

should be in trusts. Under the ProShare code, investors would simply ask the nominee to tell the company that they wanted the rights of direct ownership. The company would then be obliged to send annual reports, interim statements, any other documents on rights issues, scrip issues or takeover bids, and allow the investor any perks attached to the shares. Investors could tell their nominees what action to take and could vote by proxy at company meetings. Only attending and speaking at meetings appeared to present much difficulty.

That proviso is important. It is pointless to argue that, say, boardroom pay is a matter for shareholders, if most of them cannot even ask about it. Otherwise the code looks fine. But it will be no use unless it is put into practice. If it is voluntary, as ProShare assumes, this may not happen. ProShare found that a big minority of quoted companies were not keen on implementing the code. Worse, many nominees were lukewarm about providing the facilities it calls for. The Stock Exchange might be able to lean on recalcitrant companies, but the practices of nominees are not systematically regulated and they can scupper the code by not publicising the facilities or by charging heavily for them.

The Government and City regulators must make a decision. Either they enforce the ProShare code or they must accept that market forces will gradually write private shareholders out of their supposed role in company affairs.

Nearing the end of an unhappy chapter

A luxury Bond Street headquarters should soon be falling vacant, ending an unhappy chapter in the history of financial advice and investor protection.

Knight Williams, the controversial retirement planning business, may finally have found a buyer in the conservative shape of Gerrard Vivian Gray, the stockbroker, a move that should bring a sigh of relief to Knight Williams's 24,000 clients.

For the hundreds who have made complaints about the performance of their funds, the only regret may be the whisper that Robin Knight Bruce, the chairman, and John Williams, managing director, may collect £1 million each from the sale.

The end of the home-income debacle is however not in sight. The road leading to compensation is



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

like the M25 redesigned by the artist Escher, the illusionist. As in his drawings, where flights of stairs lead you on an eternal ascent and descent to nowhere, many elderly home-income plan victims have, in their search for recompense met impasse, cul-de-sac and one-way street.

Persuaded in the late Eighties to borrow against their homes and reinvest the proceeds in insurance company bonds, they believed

that they would live happily ever after. Instead, they wake each day to the knowledge that their debts are growing larger. The bonds, now mostly surrendered, failed to fulfill their promise of providing an income and meeting the mortgage payments.

It is hoped that two developments, announced this week, will clarify the compensation rules and shed further light on the involvement of one major building society in the home-income plan affair.

The West Bromwich Building Society, which provided mortgages to the customers of Fisher Prew Smith, the now collapsed home-income plan firm, is finally to be called before the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee.

Late last year, the society's home-income plan dealings were the subject of a report compiled by Fimbra, the financial advisers' regulator. For the sake of the 600 West Bromwich home-income plan borrowers, the committee members should call for this document to be made public.

The request should cause no problems whatsoever to the West Bromwich, as it has always pleaded its innocence. Publication should also be supported by the regulators, since they have consistently maintained that their supervision of home-income plan

operators was beyond reproach. Meanwhile, on May 22, the Lords will pass judgment on an application by the Investors Compensation Scheme to limit the amounts it pays to thousands of home-income plan victims.

The ICS wishes to exclude sums withdrawn from plans for personal expenditure on items, such as cars and holidays.

The customers were led to believe that they were spending the profits from their bonds, rather than drawing down capital. Indeed, the directors of the firms often encouraged the purchase of the Mini Metro.

As in so many other things, these 70-year-olds were misled and deserve restitution without further delay. The cliché, "not getting any younger" sums up the urgency of their situation.

Firm urges public not to buy stock

Tony Hetherington on a bid to sell shares against a company's wishes

A fledgling computer company that has signed a big contract with London Underground is advising the public not to buy its shares. Hundreds of thousands of shares in Channel i, of Chelsea, are believed to have fallen into the hands of an offshore broking firm on the Costa del Sol, which has been ramping the price and issuing misleading information about the company.

Channel i has signed an agreement with London Underground to put information kiosks into scores of Tube stations. Passengers will be able to find out how to get from one part of London to another and get details on shops and tourist attractions. The kiosks will also sell products such as insurance to travellers who can punch in their personal details while waiting for their trains to arrive. A quote will appear on the kiosk screen for whatever goods or services are requested. The customer can then pay by inserting a credit card or special Channel i swipe card.

Channel i is basically a British firm, but its shares are traded by few brokers in the US, where rules on dealing in the shares of start-up companies are more relaxed. In a bid to raise capital, directors were introduced by a small American firm called Resource Finance Group to Andy Kacic, an Arizona business-

man, who offered to place hundreds of thousands of shares at about 66 cents (42p) each. Those shares appear to have passed via a company in Belgium to Datacorp, a broking firm headed by Peter Collins, an associate of Mr Kacic. Datacorp, which is based in Malaga in Spain, has been selling the shares at up to \$7 (£4.50) each.

Datacorp — which has also been promoting shares in Resource Finance Group — is a classic share-pushing "boiler room" operation, well known to investor-protection officials in Europe and North America. It sends investment newsletters to members of the public by mailshots, and follows them up with hard-selling telephone calls from American or Canadian salesmen.

The company's office in Malaga, conceals the location of its telephone sales room. This was in a discreet office block in Marbella, and is now believed to be in Amsterdam.

Datacorp has circulated to clients a lavish brochure about Channel i. The brochure, which the company directors say they are trying to have withdrawn, shows pictures of information kiosks bearing the names of Hallfords, the motoring suppliers shopping chain, and Direct Line, the car insurer.

Captions suggest the number of kiosks is in the process of growing from less than



Channel i, a computer company, has signed a big contract with London Underground

100,000 in 1991 to more than two million in 1996. But careful reading of the brochure reveals this has nothing to do with Channel i. The figures relate to kiosks provided by rival companies in the US, where Channel i has none.

Direct Line said: "We did operate pilot kiosks for about two years in 20 Halfords stores. The screens were quite popular as far as people wanting quotes were concerned, but there just wasn't the volume of follow-up business so we abandoned it. That was about four years ago."

Direct Line was unaware that the brochure issued in support of Channel i's shares gave the impression of a current link between the two companies. "That is very naughty!" it said.

Jeremy Renton, a Channel i director, said that the brochure produced in America was not the responsibility of the company. He said: "The price at which these shares are being sold is ridiculous. It is not in our interests at all that this should be happening."

Mr Kacic was unavailable for comment and did not return calls.

Disclosure prompts CU product revamp

Allied Dunbar to replace pensions with single plan

By Alison Smith
Allied Dunbar, the life insurer owned by BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, is to replace its range of pension policies with a single adaptable plan intended to give customers greater flexibility. From the start of next year, customers will be able to decide on specific payment terms for regular contributions, and switch between different types of personal pension within a single plan. The commissions which Allied Dunbar pays its sales force and independent financial advisers will be trimmed and spread over a longer period of time instead of being taken entirely from the initial premiums. The move is a further sign of the way the life insurance industry is responding to the forthcoming new regulatory regime.

Prudential plans changes to meet policy sales rules

By Alison Smith
Prudential Corporation yesterday became the latest life insurer to respond to new rules on giving more information to customers buying policies, by promising to introduce changes next year.

Sun Alliance revamps products to fit disclosure

Pensions Management February 1995

NU launches new pensions range

Pensions Management February 1995

Norwich Union has launched a range of new unitised with profit pension products in line with the introduction of hard disclosure on commission

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WOULDN'T YOU RATHER BUY YOUR PENSION FROM SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER HAD TO CHANGE A THING

You may have noticed that several companies have recently announced changes to the structure of their pension plans.

Naturally, these changes are all intended to make the plans better and more attractive for the policyholder. However, is it coincidence that they have come at the same time as companies are being forced to disclose the full details of the costs and charges incurred on these plans?

Look closely and you will find that many of the changes involved affect the way in which, for instance, commission is charged and taken out of premiums. Could this be, perhaps, because the original plans would not have looked so attractive in the light of the new rules?

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Drug shares enjoy good run

All eyes turned to the pharmaceutical sector last month when Glaxo unveiled Britain's biggest bid, a £9 billion-plus hostile offer for Wellcome (Liz Dolan writes).

Drug company shares have already enjoyed a good run, with all stocks moving up pretty well in line. But Robin Gilbert, of Parumure Gordon, the stockbroker, says: "We still think there's more to go for."

Others are less convinced. Once Wellcome is out of the running, Zeneca will be the only credible takeover prospect, but it is already the second most expensive drugs

and the means, to join the fray?

SmithKline Beecham is pretty much takeover-proof. "You'd need to offer at least £20 billion for it and I can't see anyone coming up with that," says one stockbroker.

While realistic takeover targets may be thin on the ground, some stocks may still have something to offer the investor. Parumure is forecasting a 25 per cent uplift in Glaxo's profits in 1995-96, if the deal goes through, and the shares have moved little since the bid was announced.

Solid, and steady, SB should not be ruled out, Mr Gilbert says, and Zeneca has an enviable list of products in the pipeline. The only other stocks of any size in the sector are Medeva and Fisons. Medeva's ambition to become an international drugs giant will be largely achieved through acquisition. For that, it will need equity funding, which means decent earnings growth. Problems with previous acquisitions, which sparked a surprise profits warning in 1993, appear to have been solved. The share price has now caught up with the rest of the sector, after a 20 per cent outperformance last year, and the company is back on the acquisition trail.

Medeva's strange concoction of businesses and unusual management structure render it an unattractive takeover prospect.

Share of the week, page 30

SECTOR IN FOCUS



Switch on to power perks

Investors should act now to get the most out of power shares.

Liz Dolan reports

Time is running out for investors planning to register for the National Power and PowerGen offer. You have until this Tuesday, St Valentine's Day, to log your details with one of the 130 participating share shops.

If you miss the deadline, you can still buy the shares, but will forfeit your right to the perks. Existing shareholders are not registered automatically.

More details of the float emerged on Monday this week with the publication of the pathfinder prospectus. The publication had been delayed for a week after an eleven-hour intervention by the electricity regulator, Stephen Littlechild, forced City advisers to rewrite key sections of the prospectus.

Opinions differ as to why Professor Littlechild chose such a sensitive moment to castigate the generators for failing to control electricity prices. However, his timing certainly maximised the impact on any investors who are already nervous about the regulatory question marks overhanging the shares.

Have they fixed the offer price yet?

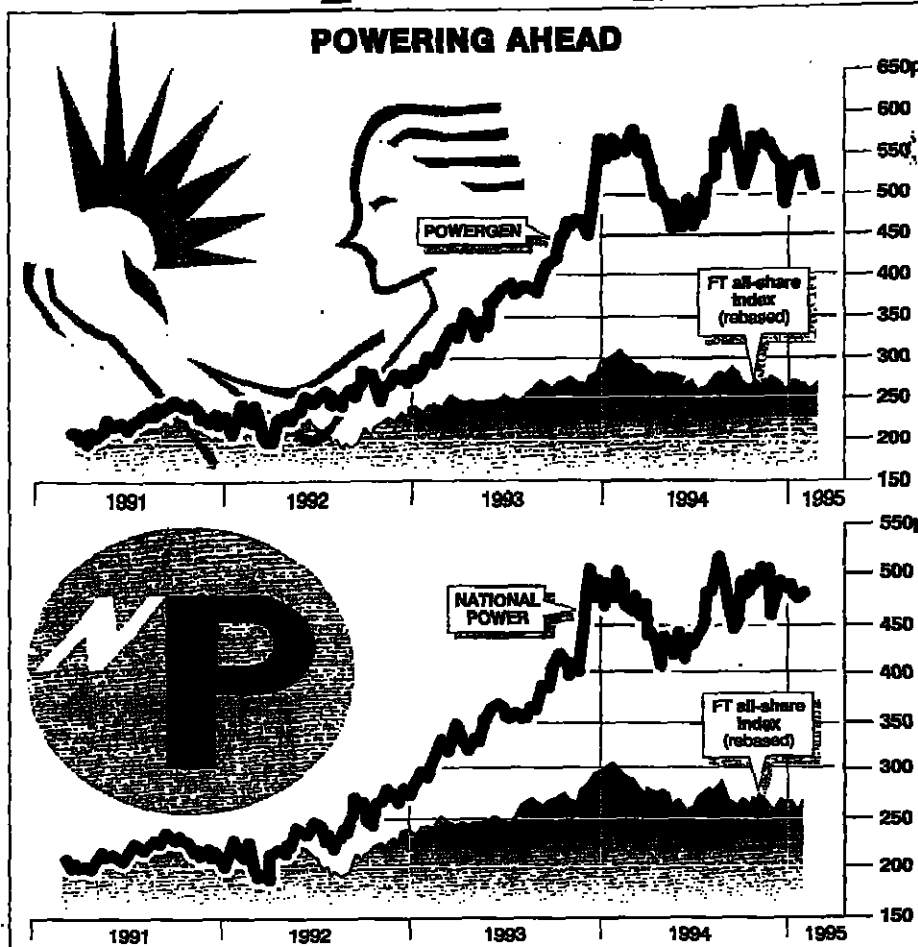
Not exactly. The price of the first two instalments was revealed on Monday, but you will have to wait until the offer closes on March 6 before the third, and final, payment is announced. The first two instalments are the same: 170p per NP share and 185p per PowerGen share. The second instalment is due on February 6 next year and the third six months later. The first instalment will be lower for private shareholders than institutional investors. This discount is expected to be about 10 per cent.

What is the minimum investment?

The minimum initial investment through the ordinary public offer is £352, which means a minimum total investment of about £1,000 if you stay the course for the full 18 months. You must apply for at least 200 shares, 120 NP and 80 PowerGen. The minimum initial investment via the retail tender offer is £3,000, which means about £8,000 in total.

What perks are offered?

You have a choice of two. The first is a discount of 25p a share on the first 800 shares allocated — 10p off the second instalment and 15p off the third. Alternatively, you may prefer to receive one free share for every 15 held. The latter applies to the first 1,200 shares, held continuously until 31 March, 1998. Existing shareholders in either company on September 30, 1994, get preference in allocation if



When should private investors consider applying through the retail tender offer?

When they want more shares than they are likely to get through the UK public offer, especially if they are planning to PEP them. Preference will be given to retail tender applicants committed to a PEP. There are some 110 retail tender brokers, most of which are also share shops. You forfeit your right to perks if you choose this route.

Do the experts reckon the shares are worth buying?

Yes, on the whole. They look particularly attractive over the next year, largely because of the high dividend yield on the partly paid shares, reckoned to be about 14 per cent as the dividend payment is the same as on fully paid shares. Also, says Jeff Plowman of Wise Speke, the broker, FT-SE stocks are generally at their cheapest levels since 1987. However, by next year, the picture gets more complicated as both companies are expected to be facing increasing competition in the UK generating market.

What sort of dividends can I expect to receive?

Your first dividend from PowerGen will be about 10p a share and, from National Power, 11.1p a share. Kleinwort Benson, joint broker to the issue, reckons that

they quote their shareholder number when registering.

fears of unwelcome takeover bids will encourage the Gencos to follow a strategy of high dividend growth and share buy-backs to keep shareholders sweet.

Should I be concerned about the effect the regulator will have on the share price?

It depends partly how long you are planning to hang on to your shares. Changes aimed at improving competition in the generating market will have a long-term effect on both businesses. If they are not carried out by a specific deadline, the regulator, is likely to refer both businesses to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Over the next 12 months, other considerations are probably more important.

Kleinwort Benson says: "Offer's aim is not to constantly screw down market prices, but to ensure generator prices are set by a competitive market."

The problem is not new. All privatised utilities are answerable to a regulator. These are commonly criticised by consumer organisations for not being tough enough. Professor Littlechild himself was hauled over the coals this week for allowing Genco bosses to feather their own nests with huge salaries and generous share options.

Deadline for registrations: February 14 Noon, March 1

Final instalment and allocations announced: March 6

Dealings in partly paid shares begins: March 6

Interim certificates dispatched: March 13

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سكوا من الأصل

Liz Dolan and Ian Hunter look at the advice and assistance on offer to cope with redundancy

Help on the home front for jobless

Nearly 3,000 people lost their jobs this week when Rumbelows and Fona, the electrical chains, went out of business. The news will not have come as a complete surprise to many of them, as the press has been full of speculation about Rumbelows's demise for some time. But this will have done nothing to ease the pain of redundancy.

As employees of a large company — the stores were owned by Thorn EMI, the music and rentals giant — they will get more than the statutory redundancy package. This is just as well, as the legal minimum payoff is between £102.50 and £307.50 for every year worked, which is not a lot to keep many wolves from many doors for long.

Under current regulations, people with mortgages who qualify for income support will at least get their monthly mortgage interest paid by the Department of Social Security. At the moment, mortgages are covered only up to £125,000. This will be cut to £100,000 in April. Payment is made at a reduced rate of 50 per cent for the first 16 weeks, but the DSS will consider requests for help in meeting mortgage arrears that have built up during that time.

Assistance is also available for related expenses, such as ground rent and essential repairs. Any benefit received from any mortgage-protection policy will be taken into account too.

Matters become more complicated after October, when new borrowers lose the right to state assistance with their mortgages, and initial payments for existing borrowers on 'income support' will be further reduced.

The Government expects private insurers to plug the gaps, but lenders and insurers are unhappy. The self-employed and people on short-term contracts are likely to have a particularly tough time finding affordable cover, let

alone getting insurers to pay out if the need arises.

There will also be many more opportunities for mix-ups and communication breakdowns between insurers, lenders and the DSS, as is amply illustrated by the case of Jane Winston, a reader. Ms Winston had the foresight to take out a protection plan to cover the mortgage payments if she was unable to work. When she was made redundant in 1993, the policy started to pay out.

The DSS then told her that, because of the money she was receiving from the policy, she would get only £15 a week in income support. "I was horrified," Ms Winston says. "That was supposed to pay for food, heating and other basic living expenses. It just didn't seem right."

She was further depressed when her local Citizens Advice Bureau confirmed that the DSS's calculations were correct. "They looked at the figures and said there was nothing they could do."

But Ms Winston was still convinced that something was wrong and visited another branch of the CAB. It was only then she discovered that her lender, the Halifax Building Society, had made a mistake with the figures. "They said my mortgage was £14,000, but it's actually £21,000. My insurance policy pays a bit extra after mortgage payments have been taken into account. The DSS looked at the Halifax's figures and worked out that I had a lot more over each week than I actually did."

In fact, Ms Winston receives £200 a month from the insurance company. She pays £150 to the Halifax, leaving less than £12.50 a week to live on. Her income-support payments have now been raised to £37.50. "I don't know what would have happened if I had just accepted the DSS's first offer," she says.



The self-employed are likely to have a tough time finding affordable insurance policies

Know your rights

Employees who are made redundant have certain rights and may be entitled to compensation.

The contractual claim normally relates to the employer's failure to give proper notice of dismissal. The starting point for calculating damages is the value of the net salary and benefits, such as pension contributions or use of a car, that the employee would have enjoyed during the notice period.

However, the employee is under a duty to seek to reduce the size of the claim by finding suitable alternative employment. Employees who find suitable comparable employment immediately or who are allowed to work out the notice period, will not be able to bring a claim.

Those who have worked for the same employer for more than two years may have a claim for unfair dismissal. The statutory award is made up of two parts. The first is a basic award that entitles the employee to between £102.50 and £307.50 for each completed year of employment, depending on age. The second, the compensatory award, is limited to £11,000.

An employee also has the right to seek re-engagement or reinstatement. However, such orders are granted only in exceptional cases. The employee can also claim in respect of outstanding salary, holiday pay, bonuses or commission.

Contractual claims, until last July, could be pursued only in the courts. Applications to the court must be made within six years of dismissal. Legal Aid is available to eligible claimants.

Since July, industrial tribunals have had authority to hear contractual claims. They now have the power to award compensation of up to £25,000.

Up to the first £30,000 of any compensation payment, whether awarded by an industrial tribunal or a court, can usually be paid free of tax. Employees may also be able

to negotiate additional benefits at little extra cost to the employer. For example, if the employee is in a company health scheme or is a potential beneficiary under a life assurance policy, he or she can often be retained on the group policy at no extra cost until the renewal date.

Some employers will sell company cars to employees at written-down value, or let employees keep items such as personal computers.

If sufficient National Insurance Contributions (NICs) have been made, employees are entitled to unemployment benefit of £45.45 a week for up to a year. The benefit is taxable, but is unaffected by the

claimant's savings or a partner's earnings.

The right to unemployment benefit may be prejudiced if the employee has been dismissed for misconduct, or has left employment voluntarily. Entitlement may also be affected by the size of any payment in lieu of notice.

Those who have not made sufficient NICs may be eligible for income support and help with interest payments on a mortgage, at present, of up to £125,000. Combined savings of a claimant and any partner must not exceed £8,000. Savings between £3,000 and £8,000 affect the benefit paid. Freeline Social Security offers advice on 0800 666555.

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SOLD CARD CHARGES

Signs of life at Eigersa

But, this week, the bombed-out shares began to show signs of life on talk that Stuart Wallis, the chief executive, will an-



Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 88)

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Exposed to new tax charge on estate-planning arrangements

From Mr C. Scott-Hopkins
Sir, It was announced last week by the Government that charities would escape controversial new rules to tax interest-free loans. However, this still leaves individuals exposed to an entirely new tax charge on estate-planning arrangements.

Popular in recent years because of their flexibility, with effect from the next tax year, 1995-96, under the guise of "simplification" and "tax neutrality" the Inland Revenue intends to tax an interest-free loan as if it were income bearing.

Ironically, this is nothing to do with Inheritance Tax. For someone who made a £50,000 interest-free loan to their children under trust this will mean payment of £1,000 at 25 per cent tax, or £1,600 at 40 per cent in 1995-96 at the "official rate" of 8 per cent, compared with no tax under the current rules.

Many of these plans involved insurance bonds where the underlying income is already taxed by the insurance company so, in effect, we have the concept of "double taxation". In most cases, the loan is repaid to the settlor at the rate of 5 per cent each year and this new measure will result in an equivalent "tax rate" of 40 per cent to the 25 per cent taxpayer and 64 per cent to the

40 per cent taxpayer. It is now clear that the Revenue wants to tax interest-free loans where trusts are involved. I suggest the correct way of doing so is to apply the proposed new legislation to all loans set up on and after the November 30 Budget day. To batter something set up in good faith under the law smacks of retrospection. In some cases, these plans date back to the Capital Transfer Tax regime. It is estimated that "simplification" will affect some £500 million of outstanding loans with £10 million of additional tax starting next year.

I urge every victim of this unprecedented Revenue attack to write to their MP. Labour did not act with retrospective effect when it imposed a tax charge on taking withdrawals above a certain level from an insurance bond in both 1968 and 1975. One would expect the Conservatives to act honourably when this clause is debated at the committee stage. After all, they say they are the party of low taxation.

C. SCOTT-HOPKINS,
Towry Law Financial Planning Limited,
Southern Division,
Towry Law House,
57 High Street,
Windsor, Berkshire.

Mortgage borrowers are being offered loyalty incentives, Karen Murray says

Lenders turn on charm

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The beleaguered house market is changing the attitude of banks and building societies towards their existing borrowers. Once the Cinderellas of the customer list, they are now the subject of a charm offensive.

In the past, lenders devised their best deals to entice new borrowers. But with new business hard to come by and remortgaging fast becoming the liveliest sector of the home loans market (it now accounts for more than three quarters of total mortgage sales), lenders have had a change of heart.

Many are realising that they must offer incentives to existing borrowers, or risk losing them to rivals waiting with offers such as cashbacks and large discounts. The trend implies that lenders are finally acknowledging the true worth of customers who pay on time and are not in arrears.

Particular attention is being focused on borrowers coming to the end of fixed-rate or discounted deals. At the end of the three-year or five-year period, borrowers are usually free to shop around for another low-priced mortgage. Here, we list the existing borrower offers announced to date. Other lenders must fol-

low, or risk further defections to rivals. Existing borrowers at the Woolwich who are moving house and who agree to have their next mortgage with the society, can get a discount of 4.2 per cent for a year if they have a deposit of less than 20 per cent. For those with a deposit of more than 20 per cent, the reduction rises to 4.7 per cent. Loyalty bonuses

are also available from the National Westminster, which offers a £400 cashback for existing customers who go to the bank for their next loan. The Halifax offers a £500 cashback. Customers who stay loyal to the Midland when they move, benefit from a discount of 1 per cent for 12 months. Skipton customers who stay put get a 0.1 per cent

discount if they pay by direct debit, bringing the current variable rate down to 5.39 per cent. Those who are moving house and have been in continuous employment for a year can get a special status discount of 0.15 per cent, in addition to any other discounts.

The society will also be more flexible on income ratios for those who take out a new mortgage. Other lures include £200 towards the valuation fee.

The Portman has introduced several schemes for existing borrowers, including premium rate sickness, accident and unemployment cover and low-rate personal loans. Mortgage holders can borrow between £2,000 and £15,000 over a five-year term at 9.9 per cent. Under the Portman's negative equity scheme, it will lend up to 100 per cent of the purchase price plus negative equity of £25,000. This is at the higher rate of 9.45 per cent for three years, one per centage point above its normal rate.

The society has a loyalty scheme for those who have saved for a minimum of six months. If they want a mortgage, they are offered a discount of 1.25 per cent for two years in addition to legal fees up to £400 and a free valuation.

Bank 'identity cards'

From Mrs Dorothy Box
Sir, Like J. Fox (Weekend Money Letters, February 4) and others, I have neither driving licence, passport nor other "open sesame" documents with which to prove my identity should I wish to open a new bank account. However, last October I shuffled some money from one type of savings to another. At Christmas, I received two cards from my bank. I shall simply present these as proof of my standing.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY BOX,
37 Mayfield Park,
Fishponds, Bristol.

Game of the name

From Mr Alan Paterson
Sir, Further to recent correspondence re the Woolwich, after taking my passport, National Insurance card, birth certificate and various forms of identification to open a new account at the Woolwich, it was to my surprise that the cashier opened an account for a Mr Alan Paterson who hadn't given her any identification. When I pointed this out to her, she said that she would change it the next day. However, a few days ago, Mr Alan Paterson received his first statement for his new Woolwich account.

So, opening an account is possible, but what is the point in being asked for all this identification if your name can't even be spelt correctly? Yours faithfully,
ALAN PATERSON,
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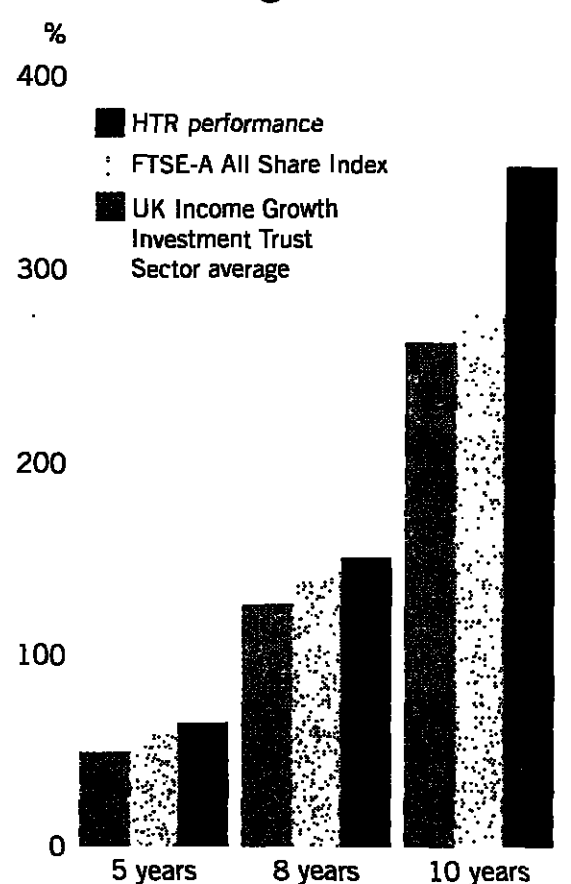
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Investors beat cautious path to South Africa

Sharon Colback
says many
projects could
absorb and
repay investment

In April, South Africans will review the most momentous year in their 300-year history when they celebrate the first anniversary of the peaceful transition to a government of national unity.

South Africa's first democratic elections were largely the result of world pressure in the form of economic sanctions and social, cultural and sporting isolation.

Now that the country is again a welcome member of the world community, institutional investors are being slow to follow punishment with reward and inject the billions in foreign currency needed for continued peace and economic survival.

The financial rand is putting a brake on investment. Introduced in 1985, it is a pool of funds that belongs to non-residents who trade it between themselves without affecting South Africa's foreign currency reserves. It trades at a discount to the commercial rand and the discrepancy between the two acts as a barometer to foreign perceptions of South Africa's political and economic health.

For investors, a two-tier system indicates a weak economy with insufficient stability to depend on a single currency.

Before the elections, the gap between the two rands was as much as 40 per cent. Since then, it has narrowed to 11.2 per cent after an unrelenting rumour last week that it was about to be scrapped. Chris Liebenberg, the Finance Minister, has hinted that it will be abolished when the gap has narrowed to 10 per cent.

Arnold Shapiro, senior portfolio manager with Old Mutual, one of South Africa's largest financial institutions, is optimistic about the country's growth potential. "The



Infrastructure schemes should prove attractive to investors

South African economy is still coming off a very low base. GDP grew by around two per cent in 1994, and it is expected to do even better in 1995.

Before the elections, the international debt embargo stopped the Government borrowing to finance debt. We had to run a current account surplus. Most emerging market countries are net borrowers of capital. We were a net exporter of capital. The economic straitjacket has been removed since last April and there is every prospect that the economy will grow strongly.

Certainly, there are many projects that could absorb and repay investment. The Government's Reconstruction Programme (RDP), once it receives the finance it needs to get into its stride, has ambitious aims to bridge the educational and material gap between the white and black populations. The

main RDP thrust, and the one that will be most attractive to investors, is in the provision of basic infrastructure. Rapidly growing squatter camps encircle every town and occupy any available land in city centres.

One of President Mandela's election promises was to build a million lower-income housing units within five years. Although few believe the target can be achieved, he needs to make a serious show if he is to retain his loyal, and, at present patient, following.

The Johannesburg All-Share Index mirrored the relief at the election, rising by about 20 per cent between January and the end of last year. This was not enough to attract large numbers of institutional investors, but there is good reason to suppose they will soon feel the need to invest.

From April, two influential

emerging market indices will include South Africa for the first time. The International Finance Corporation has given the country a 13 per cent weighting and Morgan Stanley Capital Index has given 9 per cent. Once the market recovers from its recent fall, pension and insurance fund trustees will want to see it in their portfolios. Sheer weight of foreign institutional money is expected to push the market up later in the year.

After such a strong surge last year, the market dropped back heavily last month, falling 16.1 per cent. This was partly because of overheating and partly a knock-on effect from Mexico's crisis.

The three South African funds launched in the UK last year rewarded investors handsomely before the market fell. Old Mutual launched its £54.1 million investment trust, Old Mutual South Africa (OMSA) on July 8, 1994. Between the launch and the trust's last published figures on November 30, the net asset value of OMSA rose 15.4 per cent. The All-Share index rose 6.49 per cent.

The trust invests in industrial shares and Mr Shapiro says that, when gold and commodities are having a strong run, OMSA may lag behind those tilted towards resources. Although optimistic gold analysts hope that the gold price will average \$400, the 11.5 per cent rise on last year's prices will be offset by a similar rise in costs. At best, gold shares can be expected to mark time.

Credit Suisse South Africa Fund, launched on July 15, 1994, and now valued at about £4 million, rose by 19.01 per cent on an offer-to-offer basis up to December 30, 1994. The All-Share index rose by 15.1 per cent in sterling terms during the same period. Against the market drop of 16.1 per cent in January, the fund fell 12.8 per cent, but it is still up 3.9 per cent since its launch. Save & Prosper Southern Africa Fund, valued on January 31 at £7.8 million, has risen 3.34 per cent since its launch on October 1 last year. Until the market fell, it had risen by over 13 per cent.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1993

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Saturday portrait: Chris Boardman by Andrew Longmore

Speed king prepares for uphill struggle in pursuit of glory

The main square in Lille on a hot July afternoon. Children bathe in the fountain outside the arts museum, their parents watching idly. A commentary echoes through the tight streets, heralding the start of the 81st Tour de France. Today is the prologue, a 7.2km time-trial, good for sponsors, but knockabout stuff for the main contenders, entertaining small talk before the dealing begins. There is silence, then a shout from the commentator, rising to a scream. "Chris Boardman!" The last two syllables are accented equally, the "s" of the first stretched to breaking.

The children stop playing for a moment, spectators wake from their reverie and peer down the Boulevard de la Liberté at a single figure, dressed in the light blue and white of the Gan team, thrashing his way through the heat haze. The time, flashed up on the clock above the street, is impossible, nearly 30 seconds quicker than the leader.

As the rider crosses the line, Roger Legeay, the sardonic, chain-smoking manager of the Gan team, hugs his public relations officer in a spontaneous and comic embrace. The gamble has paid off. The rookie *rosbif* has delivered. Boardman, in his first day on *Le Tour*, has won the yellow jersey.

Eleven days later, as expected, Boardman left the Tour, the victim of inexperience as much as fatigue and the intense heat. But he had made enough of an impact to suggest that, within the next three years, the scene enacted in Lille could be transposed to the streets of Paris on the final day.

An Englishman winning the Tour de France? Apart from Boardman himself and Legeay, there are good judges who believe he has all the right qualities: strength, power, endurance, intelligence, determination. Legeay thinks Boardman could finish in the top ten this year, which would put him well ahead of schedule. Miguel Indurain, winner of the Tour for the past four years, ended his first two Tours in the dreaded broom-wagon, the bus which sweeps up the stragglers.

Tonight, Boardman will take a

detour from his chosen route in a 4,000-metre pursuit race against Tony Rominger, the world No 1, at the new national cycling centre in Manchester. In the wider scheme of the season, this is an irrelevant, if lucrative, sideshow, a return to roots, a reminder of the Olympic gold won three years ago in Barcelona on a supersonic bike beneath a space-age helmet.

But victory over the Swiss rider would do no harm to Boardman's morale as he faces up to the most arduous year of his career and provides reassurance that the man who shattered the world one-hour record — with a speed nearly two miles an hour faster than Boardman's own successful attempt in 1993 — has two arms and two legs, just like everybody else.

Boardman's prospects of becoming the first Englishman to win the

'To win the Tour de France, you need to be a jack of all trades, but master of none'

Tour hinge on a piece of machinery at the Bevington Oval Sports Centre on the Wirral where, in the absence of a suitable mountain on the Cheshire plains, he simulates the sort of numbing, relentless, labour he will endure in the Alps next summer. Forty-five minutes at 18kph on a 9 per cent gradient.

He has been tinkering with his riding position, sitting further back on his saddle, pulling at the handlebars rather than resting on them. He denies that it is a little late in life to be changing such fundamentals. "Everything is trainable," he says. He has studied videos of Indurain and Rominger, among others, to see how they do it, but he will adapt his own riding style, not copy theirs. One of Boardman's mottos is: "If you follow the guy in front, you will always finish second."

Boardman just needs to survive in the mountains, conserve his

energy and learn not to lose the time he should have won in the time-trials on the flat. "It is all a matter of compromise," he said.

"To win the Tour, you need to be a jack of all trades, but master of none." What perturbed him last year was that his pulse rate reached a mere 152 on climbs and he still suffered. Usually, he can maintain a rate of 175-180 for the duration of a tough time-trial.

This winter, Boardman, together with his long-standing coach, Peter Keen, a lecturer in sports science at the University of Brighton, has been using a power crank, a gadget which measures strain, power output, heart rate and speed to monitor what for cars is called torque. Boardman's torque at the top end is second to none; at the lower end, in his own words, he "gets a hammering".

It is partly a matter of experience, but the appliance of science to his own considerable natural talent has been at the heart of Boardman's success and it is attention to detail, this understanding of the workings of his body, that gives Boardman an even-money chance of completing the transformation from 41km track rider to 4,000km road racer, the equivalent of making Linford Christie run a marathon. By the summer, Boardman, 1.75m tall, will have trimmed his weight from 71 to 68 kilos; by next year, to 66.

So impressed has Legeay been with Boardman's training techniques, he has largely left him to work alone, which suits the Englishman's temperament as well as his homing instincts. Unlike the Irishmen, Stephen Roche and Sean Kelly, who both moved to the Continent, Boardman will be based in England.

He moved into a new house near Haylake late last year, with his wife, Sally, and three young children, Edward, Harriet and George. Better to risk the suspicion of his team-mates than to leave the lanes where he first knew cycling on the back of his father's bike and where he began his career with the North Wirral Velo Club 13 years ago.

He is still involved with the club, helping with sponsorship and advice, approachable as he is with



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

fans and the press. Yet his instinct for standing out from the crowd extends beyond his physical ability. When Mike Burrows, a designer, was trying to sell his concept of a monobled superbike in the Eighties, Boardman was the only one to give it a go.

The result of the experiment was a series of world records at the 4km pursuit in Barcelona, the first individual Olympic gold by a British rider since 1908 and vengeance for Boardman, whose

father, Keith, had narrowly missed selection for the 1964 Games. The press found the combination of British technical wizardry and cabinet-maker from Hovlake irresistible.

Boardman's Lotus bike briefly became a *cause célèbre* for the parlous state of British industry. But winning gold brought Boardman face-to-face with his own future. Either he could progress and turn professional or stay still and win another gold. With some

misgivings, because he admits to riding for the enjoyment of winning, not for the fun of it — "cycling is hard, it hurts and it's dangerous", he says — he chose the former and prepared himself for life on the chain gang.

Again, he took no chances. He broke the world one-hour record in Bordeaux when the Tour hit town. Had he stood outside the town hall wearing his gold medal and a sandwich-board saying, "Come and get me", he could not

have advertised his services more explicitly.

Four stage wins during the season, three days in the yellow jersey and victory in the 4,000 metres pursuit world championships marked an exceptional first year as a professional. More will be expected this year, much more. Boardman, at 26, estimates he has learnt 35 per cent of what he needs to know to win the Tour. The rest might reflect on their chances if he ever completes his education.

O'Sullivan proves a match for old hand

BY PHIL YATES

IN SNOOKER it is not uncommon for the tortoise to beat the hare. Terry Griffiths has utilised table craft, methodical precision and water-tight safety to beat many a young buck over the years but yesterday that was not enough.

The hare, in the form of Ronnie O'Sullivan, reached the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre by beating Griffiths 5-2.

O'Sullivan, attempting to supersede Stephen Hendry as the youngest winner in the 21-year history of the Masters, did not play with his customary fluency but Griffiths was unable to reproduce the form which saw him beat Steve Davis 5-3 in the previous round.

"I'm grafting but nothing's coming easy for me," O'Sullivan said. "The thing I've learnt this week is that good preparation is vital. I feel fresh and alert and that's helping me to think clearly."

Griffiths, winner of the 1980 Masters, wasted a number of early opportunities and O'Sullivan took a 3-1 lead with a break of 83 in the fourth. He added a run of 65 to capture the next and, although Griffiths kept the match alive by winning the sixth, his comeback stopped there.

O'Sullivan, who meets Hendry or Peter Ebdon in the semi-finals, believes that, although he is not at his peak, it is only a matter of being patient and sticking rigidly to the stricter practice regime he has adopted this year.

"It will come, it's just when. It's so easy to have a curry at 3 o'clock in the morning, get up feeling terrible and say you'll practise tomorrow, but tomorrow never comes. I don't want to be an also-ran," he said.

The composition of the other semi-final this afternoon was decided on Thursday evening when Jimmy White, playing well in bursts but still prone to inconsistency, beat James Wattana 5-3. White now meets John Higgins.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J White (eng) 3-1 Wattana (Wales) 5-3; R O'Sullivan (eng) 5-2 Griffiths (Wales) 5-2.

Full-strength Wigan seeking to extend cup monopoly St Helens challenge the trend

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ALL the fervour and fanaticism stirred by meetings between Wigan and St Helens is strangely at odds with the predictability that has come to characterise the most famous rugby league rivalry, especially in the Challenge Cup.

On the way to winning the Silk Cut competition for the past seven seasons, Wigan have defeated St Helens on five occasions, including the 1989 and 1991 finals. If the trend is reversed in the televised fourth-round tie today, it will be the first time since 1977 that St Helens have overcome their neighbours in the cup.

Form and history conspire against St Helens and, with Wigan odds-on favourites at an astonishing 10-1 to maintain their cup monopoly, the bookmakers have instantly dismissed Saints' chances.

Shane Cooper is not quite as pessimistic. The St Helens captain has started in all five defeats during Wigan's Chal-

enge Cup reign. "No, I wouldn't have chosen them at this stage," he said. "But who would?"

This year, the entry of the first-choice clubs is marked by contests between six of the seven leading sides, which is likely to leave half twiddling their thumbs until the Premiership in May, and Wigan rubbing their hands. Their crushing form has raised more awkward questions about standards elsewhere.

Ominously, Wigan can call upon their entire international contingent for one of the few occasions this season. Moreover, the return from injury of Andrew Farrell and Jason Robinson offers England further options for the European championship encounter with France next week.

With six first-choice players definitely absent, St Helens might gamble on the fitness of Scott Gibbs and Alan Hurn. Bobby Coulling, Steve Prescott and Jon Neill are back, but for the sledgehammer to be frustrated by the nut, the



Robinson: ready to play

visitors will need far more luck than they have had going for them of late.

Historically, Leeds and Bradford Northern have been a more evenly contested cup derby. Leeds, with due respect to the rest, are the only team capable of interrupting Wigan's momentum, although Bradford were the last side to win at Headingley, last April. Garry Schofield passed a fitness test and is in an

unchanged Leeds line-up. Karl Fairbank is back for Bradford, as are Roger Simpson and Neil Summers.

For Warrington and Castleford, a flagging season hangs or falls by a tie rich in promise. Warrington had the edge last month, and the side that hammered Doncaster is unchanged. In spite of the return of Graham Steadman, injury and suspension continue to hamper Castleford, although John Joyner, the coach, signed a new contract yesterday.

Halifax and Salford have tricky ties at Huddersfield and Hunslet respectively, but Wakefield have the least enviable task at Whitehaven, who brought embarrassment to Featherstone Rovers in the Regal Trophy two months ago. And what of Beverley? The last amateur survivors (5,000-1 for the Trophy) encounter Batley (200-1) at Hull. Having repeated their feat of 36 years previously by beating Highfield, a second professional scalp might be beyond them, but do not bet on it.

Capper and Bell pose threat to Firebrands

FOUR non-league clubs — Formby, Warwick, Hampstead and Westminster — feature in the five Hockey Association Cup fifth-round matches to be played tomorrow (Sydney Friskin writes).

Formby, third in the north league, follow up their 3-2 victory over Slough in the fourth round with a home match against Firebrands. Andy Forsshaw, the Formby goalkeeper and captain, believes that his side has a good chance. "If they score early, we could be in trouble but the longer we hold them off the better for us," he said. He regards his two resourceful forwards, Capper and Bell, as potential match-winners.

Warwick, who eliminated Trojans in the previous round, could be in trouble against the high-scoring Guildford, for whom Jennings scored five goals in the 9-3 league win against Slough

last week. Isa, with Robert and Graham Skinner to guide their fortunes, should get past Spencer, but Hampstead and Westminster could severely test Richmond. In the remaining match tomorrow, Barford Tigers are expected to overcome Neston.

Richard Dadds, captain of the 1988 Olympic gold medal-winning team, has been appointed chairman of the Great Britain men's Olympic Hockey Committee in place of Phil Appleyard, who is standing down after 4½ years.

Slough return to action in the women's national hockey league after a nine-week winter break undaunted by the prospect of two tough contests in the premier division and AEWHA Cup this weekend. The leaders meet third-placed Hightown in the league today and Sutton Coldfield in an all-premiership clash in the fourth round of the AEWHA Cup tomorrow.

England profit from spoils of Waugh

ENGLAND recovered from an early setback to defeat Poland 4-1 in a classification match at the Indira Gandhi hockey tournament in Delhi yesterday, and will now play Malaysia for fifth place (Sydney Friskin writes).

England owed much of their success to the performance of Waugh, who stamped his authority on the game and scored two brilliant goals. Hazlett, in deep defence, and Conway, in attack, were also impressive.

After 15 minutes, England fell behind when Poland converted a short corner. Luckes, who had replaced Mason in goal, blocked the first shot from Slowomir, but was well beaten on the follow-up by Bielskiak. Three minutes later, Crutchley levelled the score with a hard, well-placed shot. Crutchley and Conway then combined well to put Poland under pressure and Waugh, diving forward to meet a

centre from the right, put England ahead in the twentieth minute.

Conway increased the lead from a short corner in the 42nd minute, and ten minutes later Hazlett set up a chance for Waugh to score his second goal and England's fourth.

With time almost up, England were awarded a penalty stroke for a dangerous charge by Markiewicz on Conway, but Crutchley shot straight at Pobuta, the Poland goalkeeper, who made a comfortable save to deny England a fifth goal. Malaysia beat South Africa 4-3 to set up their meeting with England.

ENGLAND: D Luckes (East Chislehurst); J Wyatt (Reading); J Morrison (Old Leightonians); S Hazlett (Hemel Hempstead); J Waugh (Slough); M Sutton (Bourneville); R Crutchley (Hounslow); G Forcham (Hounslow); D Woods (Southwell); J Lee (East Grinstead); N Cornery (Old Leightonians). Substitutes used: C Gibbs (Hemel); B Sharpe (Canterbury); J Wells (Reading).
PLAY-OFFS: Fifth to eighth places: England 4 Poland 1; Malaysia 4 South Africa 3.
SEMI-FINALS: Today: India v Australia; South Korea v Kazakhstan.

Mad Max adds chapter to these troubled times

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

AS L'AFFAIRE Cantona rumbles on, so America reels under the Vernon Maxwell Incident. Maxwell, stalwart of the Houston Rockets, and known as Mad Max for his volatile nature, set off in pursuit of a fan who had been abusing him throughout the game. Maxwell went 12 rows deep into the stands to find his man and punch him. Retribution has been swift: the National Basketball Association (NBA) has fined him \$20,000 and suspended him for ten games; this equals the highest fine in NBA history and is the second-longest suspension.

Maxwell's lawyer, Dick De Guerin, said: "If I'd have been there, I'd probably have cold-clucked him, too." Steve George, the man who was hit, has denied saying anything inflammatory, but Maxwell said that George

He don't appreciate good Parliamentary English



had taken for his subject Maxwell's stillborn daughter. "The heckling would have made Mother Theresa hit out," De Guerin said.

Expensive shot

American sports, and a regrettable and growing number of British events, tend to feature a "mascot", a man dressed up in a silly suit to become an anthropomorphic dog or lion or some other beast, or perhaps a wacky cartoon character. His job is to be loved by children, to crank up home support, to mock at the visiting opposition in a "lovable" sort of way. Don Jackson, coach of

the Cincinnati Cyclones, has been fined \$1,000 and suspended for ten games for hitting a mascot. The incident, surely more worthy of praise than censure, occurred when Jackson grew irritated at "Sir Slapshot", mascot of the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL), have won the legal right to establish their own union. There are 36 Jills in all, and they say they are mistreated by their managing company, which is a chain of fast-food restaurants. They want better working conditions, more pay, and a louder voice in managing their careers away from the football field. "We view ourselves as a sport, or at least as a very large industry," Nancy Bates, seven years a Jill, said. "We need to protect our interests. It's about time NFL cheerleaders did this." The Jills get \$25 for personal appearances, but they get only a free ticket for a friend as a reward for waving their pom-poms at games.

Little cheer

It had to happen: baseball strike, ice hockey strike, deep rumblings in basketball; and now the industrial might of the cheerleaders. The Buffalo Bills, cheerleaders for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL), have won the legal right to establish their own union. There are 36 Jills in all, and they say they are mistreated by their managing company, which is a chain of fast-food restaurants. They want better working conditions, more pay, and a louder voice in managing their careers away from the football field. "We view ourselves as a sport, or at least as a very large industry," Nancy Bates, seven years a Jill, said. "We need to protect our interests. It's about time NFL cheerleaders did this." The Jills get \$25 for personal appearances, but they get only a free ticket for a friend as a reward for waving their pom-poms at games.

Over the top

Still more trouble: Kasey Keller, Millwall goalkeeper and United States international, was left somewhat shaken after the trouble at the match this week against Chelsea. "It's just not like that in America, where you get maybe the occasional streaker. But last night I saw elderly gentlemen absolutely screaming their heads off. I love the aspect of being emotional about football, but when it comes to hurting people, that's definitely going over the top."

Home worries

This column is still not clear of trouble for the week. I learn that the great footballer, Romario, has found more serious matters to worry him on his triumphant return to Brazil. Last week, I reported on his worries about his incipient baldness; he now faces two charges of affray, one against a middle-aged man in a restaurant, another connected with an under-age girl in a nightclub.

Youth policy

All is not lost. As Michael Atherton "implores" the selectors to support youth, so I hear about a deadly plot to put English cricket back on top. Lombards finance company has become involved in youth cricket, and one of its projects is an under-14 national coaching weekend at Lilleshall in April to be attended by Keith Fletcher and Ray Illingworth (assuming that the team manager and chairman of selectors are still in a job). "We are going to scour England for a young Shane Warne," John Morgan, of Lombards, announced. The plot should meet Atherton's exacting demands for youth: the idea of confronting West Indies with a 13-year-old leg spinner could hardly be bettered.

Coca-Cola Cup semi-final puts first division's contrasting likely lads under the spotlight

Opposites attracted by lure of Wembley glory

**Russell Kempson on
Joey Beauchamp, the
Swindon Town winger
who flew the nest**

It was the most public of humiliations. Oxford United midfielder started West Ham United for £1 million and, only days later, realises the full implications. Too late. Quiet country boy endures big-city blues and national ridicule.

For Joey Beauchamp, the two-month episode has left its scars. It haunts him still, six months on, even though he is safely back in the family embrace in Oxford, where he was born, bred and would happily spend the rest of his life were it not for the footballing skills that have drawn suitors from afar.

At least playing for Swindon Town, who take on Bolton Wanderers in the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at the County Ground tomorrow, is closer to home, far from the maddening crowd of Upton Park that took him to the brink of despair. A 40-minute drive into leafy Wiltshire instead of two hours of stop-start angst around the M25 and into London E13, eventually.

Beauchamp, 23, had led a sheltered yet progressive existence at Oxford United, graduating from the club's Centre of Excellence into the first team, and still lived with his parents, Joe and Doreen, in the north of the city. He saw no reason for change.

But for West Ham's persistence, in June, after an initial rebuff the previous season, and the mighty lure of the FA Cup, Beauchamp was put. Period. "Even though Oxford were relegated, I enjoyed it with them. Always had done," he said. "Swindon were interested but West Ham were desperate to get me."

"When I went up to see them, they asked me to sign there and then. I had to make a snap decision and was pressured into signing. They should have made sure I wanted to sign. They were the ones paying £1 million. I'm not the best at decision-making. When I'm under pressure, I just do things."

Beauchamp is instantly affable, albeit within a strange, distant haze, and talks in short, staccato bursts, the sentences trailing off as other images enter his mind. He chews his nails constantly, avoids eye contact and often appears like a little boy lost. Easy to persuade, difficult to penetrate. "Maybe I'm a bit glibbie, a bit naive sometimes," he said. "I knew almost as soon as I got home that I'd made the wrong



Beauchamp got caught up in big-city aggravation when he joined West Ham

choice. It was the wrong move at the wrong time. I couldn't sleep and thought I'd ruined my career, my life."

A single, traffic-choked journey through the usual M25 mayhem — "I'm not the greatest of travellers" — convinced him of his error. West Ham demanded he should move nearer the ground, a request he declined, and Swindon reaffirmed their earlier interest to end his stay after only a handful of pre-season matches.

His talent, though, has never been in doubt — predominantly left-footed, good balance, bewitching swerve. Maurice Evans, the former Oxford manager and now general manager, recalled how he signed Beauchamp, a 14-year-old schoolboy, in the face of unanimous opposition from his contemporaries. "They all reckoned he was too

quiet, a loser," Evans said. "Very quiet, yes; he's an introvert, never says a word. I don't expect his mum knows him, but he's got great ability. West Ham probably frightened him, with all those big-city boys taking the mick."

Though back home, the mick is still taken, and more. His father once received a death threat to pass on — Oxford followers are not keen on those who defect to Swindon. Yet behind a troubled facade lurks an agile mind, constantly calculating the odds.

He passed his maths O level a year early. He also writes computer games, and dared to insist on his £30,000 signing-on fee at West Ham, which was never paid. He likes a bet, too, though not to excess, and

owns a greyhound, Ruby Fire. "I like to get away from football when I'm not training or playing," he said.

Swindon's progress to the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals has materialised without a meeting with his former, brief employers. "Every cup draw, I thought: 'Oh God, please don't be West Ham,'" he said. Yet a possible return to Wembley, where he was a ball boy when Oxford won the Milk Cup final in 1986, provokes a rare outbreak of optimism.

"It was an unbelievable experience," he said. "The noise just hit you. We were watching the presentation of medals at the end, and I was thinking 'I'll be up there one day', when I turned around and saw the other lads had gone. I was standing all on my own." Typical Beauchamp, locked in another world. Fast and present.

**Michael Henderson
says the rare talent of
Alan Stubbs is typical
of Bolton Wanderers**

Last year, ripples this year, waves. Bolton Wanderers were everyone's darlings in 1994 when they turfed Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa out of the FA Cup. Everyone admired their plumage. Alas, they lost their feathers and, too young a team for the long slog, they missed out on promotion to the FA Cup final.

A season older, and wiser, they are two games from Wembley in the "other" cup, sponsored by Coca-Cola, and play the first leg of the semi-final at Swindon tomorrow. To prevent Bolton travelling to Wiltshire as leaders of the Endleigh Insurance League first division, Tranmere Rovers and Middlesbrough must win today.

Bolton reached the summit by walloping Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-1 at Burnden Park last Saturday. The scoreline may have been unrepresentative of a match that was more even but it was an outstanding performance, all the same. If it is true that "they play like this all the time", as Michael Watkinson, the Lancashire cricket captain, said, his tongue only partly in his cheek, then they would be promoted immediately on a show of hands.

Promotion is essential. Failure to go up would leave Bruce Rioch, the manager, vulnerable to the poachers who are known to lie in wait. There are also players such as Jason McAteer, the English midfielder, and John McGinlay, who has supplied 15 goals this season, Alan Thompson, the skilful left-sided attacker, has turned heads. And there is Alan Stubbs, the elegant defender who is on the cusp of England recognition.

Stubbs, like McAteer, is from Merseyside, where Liverpool and Everton are measuring the progress of both players. Blackburn Rovers and Manchester United, the two leading sides in the Premiership, are also taking notes. One is desperate for a centre back of quality; the other is trying to replace Steve Bruce. Stubbs, just 23, appears to have the world at his feet.

Like his team-mates, he is enjoying his football too much to be sidetracked by speculation. "I get the impression that people like coming to watch us. Last year we got a bit carried away but this season there is more experience."

Rioch, who built a good footballing team at Middles-



Stubbs, an elegant young defender who is on the verge of England honours

brough out of the ruins of the receiver, is building another at Bolton. "We have a group of players who are comfortable on the ball. There are players who can run with it, can shoot, dribble and play to feet." Which adds up to a team of formidable talents.

If Stubbs stands out, it is partly because we are not used, in this country, to watching defenders who are, as Arrigo Sacchi observed of Franco Baresi, "on first-name terms with the ball". No wonder people have sought comparisons with Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool captain. Stubbs is that rarity, the footballing centre half.

Hansen almost joined Bolton in 1977. It is strange to think that Bolton's budget would not stretch to the £100,000 that took him to Anfield, where he established a reputation as the most

handsome defender — and arguably the best player, give or take Kenny Dalglish — in the land.

Some suspected Hansen, as they suspect Stubbs now, precisely because he was so good on the ball. The British prefer defenders to be hewers of wood rather than engravers. It should not be forgotten that Hansen played only 26 times for Scotland, and was left out of the 1986 World Cup squad by Alex Ferguson, who was happier with his Aberdeen partnership of Miller and McLeish.

Stubbs shows no signs of changing his game. At Bolton he is coached by Colin Todd, another brilliant and underused international. Todd won two championships with Derby County in 1972 and 1975 when he was the finest half back in Eng-

land, and his working relationship with Rioch, a Derby team-mate, has enabled Bolton's young players to blossom.

Todd's brilliance as a player in his own position is not lost on Stubbs. "He's been wonderful with me," the younger man said. "The best advice he has given is 'don't ever be afraid to play.' And he can certainly play. Few have such confidence."

Swindon are a good footballing team, too, and Steve McMahon has rattled their cosy rural cage a bit since taking over, so there is a fine game in prospect. But even if Bolton reach Wembley, Rioch and his players cannot afford to take their eye off the ball in the league. However unromantic it sounds, promotion really is more important than cup glory.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

MADRID: International indoor meetings. 500m: 1. B. Surin (Cuba) 1:22.22; 2. R. Stewart (Jama) 1:22.22; 400m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 1:00.00; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 1:00.00; 100m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 10.00; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 10.00; 200m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 20.00; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 20.00; 400m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 40.00; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 40.00; 800m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 80.00; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 80.00; 1600m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 1:59.99; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 1:59.99; 3200m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 3:59.98; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 3:59.98; 6400m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 7:59.97; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 7:59.97; 12800m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 15:59.96; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 15:59.96; 25600m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 31:59.95; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 31:59.95; 51200m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 63:59.94; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 63:59.94; 102400m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 127:59.93; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 127:59.93; 204800m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 255:59.92; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 255:59.92; 409600m: 1. J. Brown (USA) 511:59.91; 2. C. Jackson (GB) 511:59.91; 819200m: 1. J. 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 On the scent of modern perfume bottles Page 10 PLUS: Win Cacharel fragrances, page 10	 Maryland, home to heavenly crab patties Page 20 PLUS: Learning to snowboard, page 22	 Take a cruise to Norway's majestic fjords Page 3 PLUS: Attend a concert for 20p, page 7	 Tainted film goddesses of the Third Reich Page 15 PLUS: This week's bestseller lists, page 14
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WEEKEND

ONE ADVERT AND A WEDDING



By Alice Thomson

Tall, attractive, 35-year-old lady needs tall, professional gentleman to show there is more to life than driving into London every day...

And so 37-year-old Stephen Clark arrived and, obligingly, proposed to Anne Cook in a traffic jam. Unequivocal proof that people who answer advertisements in lonely hearts columns are not all damaged and depressed divorcees, kinky kleptomaniacs or racist midget accountants. Even when they are commuters.

There are seven million adults in Britain who are neither married, in long-term relationships nor flat-sharing. Most of them are over 30 and have either worked so hard that they have been left as well-off wallflowers in society's mating dance, or have married but then divorced. They no longer want to go to a sweaty disco; their eyes have yet to meet, meltingly, over the meals-for-one counter at Sainsbury's; they do not want to risk their jobs by making a pass at someone from work; and they are never going to meet anyone at their married friends' dinner parties where all the discussion is about the merits of double duvets.

But they cannot face another Saturday night alone with *Sleepless in Seattle* on the video or another Sunday afternoon taking their parents' dog for a walk.

Anne, who put the above advertisement in the *Rendezvous* column of the Weekend section of *The Times*, split up from her husband three years ago. "I put everything into my work in London as PA to the managing director of BMW in Park Lane. I was up at 5am and I wouldn't get home to Bracknell until 9pm. I loved the job but it was exhausting and, although I had known my husband since I was 17, we eventually divorced," she says. "After that, I would come home, have a bowl of cereal and go to bed. On Saturdays, I would tidy the house, go shopping, maybe go to a film with some girlfriends or see my family. I had the money but no one to go on holiday with, and I had a house but it was depressing decorating it on my own."

But Anne didn't like night clubs, she was frightened of pubs and she wasn't going to accost someone in an art gallery. The only people she met in the gym were other single women. Friends would try to set her up with someone, but they always seemed to be proselytising policemen and, after one disastrous affair, she gave up.

On Saturday mornings, Anne would scan *The Times's* *Rendezvous* column, pitying all the Desperates from Dorking and Millionaires from Milton Keynes with a Good Sense Of Humour (GSOH) who Would Like To Meet (WLTm) a slim English rose or a gorgeous-sized Goldie Hawn, photo essential, for True Love and Everlasting Happiness (TLEH). Then, last Easter, Anne's sister and her next door neighbour, Pam Sherlock, convinced her to put in an advertisement "just for a laugh".

The sack from the postman arrived two days later. "The first letter I picked out was from Stephen. It was almost too good to be true, apart from the photo, which was cut in half and made me suspicious that he was married," Anne says. She tried to ring but had lost her voice, so she wrote a letter back.

Stephen, who lived in Rochford, Essex, had never answered a lonely hearts advert before and couldn't believe it when he saw an orange envelope in the post the next day, replying to his first try. "It was like winning the National Lottery. I rang up Anne having no idea what I was letting myself in for. The

Continued on page 3, col 1

THE MALDIVES.
'ROBINSON CRUSOE' LIKE
DESERT ISLANDS...
FROM ONLY £579!

If your idea of a holiday is relaxation, seclusion and superb watersports, the Maldives are for you, as featured in our 1995 Worldwide brochure.

Kuoni offer direct flights from Gatwick to this 'atoll' of small Indian Ocean coral islands, surrounded by finest white sand beaches with crystal blue waters that provide some of the worlds finest diving conditions. A true taste of paradise from only £579!

Ask your travel agent for a free brochure, or ring our Brochure line: 01233 211606 (24 hours).

Voted by British Travel Agents "Britain's Best Longhaul Tour Operator"



WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

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CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

KING PRIAM: The greatest effect on box office is probably that indefinable thing called "word of mouth", greater than any amount of hype, greater than critical raves. The English National Opera's staging of Tippet's opera opened on a Friday, and during the two days before any reviews appeared (and they were very good) London was abuzz with the news that this was something exceptional — a gripping account of Tippet's direct, unflinching treatment of Trojans and Greeks trapped in the spiralling horror of war. The evenly expert cast in Tom Cairns's production is headed by Andrew Shore, Jean Rigby and Thomas Randle; Paul Daniel conducts the first of these final two performances (ENO must be kicking themselves for not scheduling more) and Nicholas Kok the second.

Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-836 3161), to-night, Fri 17, 7.30pm. £

DER ROSENKAVALIER: The Royal Opera's latest revival of Strauss's bittersweet comedy of bad manners is strong where it matters — in the principals. Forget the Christmas cake designs and routine direction, reveal instead in the depth of Felicity Lott's exquisitely sung portrayal of the Marschallin, in Barbara Bonney's sprightly Sophie, and Anne Haugland's thoroughly amiable Ochs, and with luck — if she has got over her cold — in Anne Sofie von Otter's first London Octavian. Andrew Davis conducts a glowingly romantic account of the score. Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), to-night, Wed 15, 6.30pm. £

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

VISIONS OF PARADISE: The great Tippet festival continues at the Barbican. Tomorrow, the London Symphony Orchestra plays his luscious, Balinese-sounding Triple Concerto (with LSO string principals as soloists). This is put in fascinating conjunction with Elgar's First Symphony. On Wednesday the London Sinfonietta gives the world premiere of David Sawer's *The Greatest Happiness Principle*, sandwiched between two more Tippet works. The LSO is back on Thursday with Tippet's "Beethovenian" Third Symphony, fittingly coupled with Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto. Then on Friday the Grimethorpe Colliery Band teams up with the London Sinfonietta and Chorus for a tremendous mixed bag of contemporary brass and choral music. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), all 7.30pm. £

CREATION AT COVENT GARDEN: John Eliot Gardiner is about to add Haydn's *The Creation* to his now extensive list of Deutsche Grammophon recordings, and this Royal Opera House performance is given by the forces — Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists, soloists led by Sylvia McNair — that will go into the studio next week. Expect stunning singing, immaculately well-prepared interpretations and intelligent insights. The question is really whether Gardiner can unbend sufficiently to project Haydn's wit and warmth. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (0171-304 4000), tomorrow, 7pm. £

ROCK

David Sinclair

ERIC CLAPTON: Fifty next month, Eric Clapton is beginning to resemble the blues veterans that inspired him in the first place. He is, of course, white and immensely rich, whereas they were black and often destitute, but there is no denying the depth of feeling and technical finesse which informs his current album, *From The Cradle*. SECC, Glasgow (0141-248 9999), Feb 15; Sheffield Arena (0114 2565656), Feb 16; Albert Hall, London SW7 (0171-589 8212), Feb 19-21, 23-25, 27, 28, March 1, 3-5; National Indoor Arena, Birmingham (021-200 2202), March 7.

SPIRITUALIZED ELECTRIC MAINLINE: The New Musical Express, having invited ambient-rockers Spiritualized Electric Mainline to perform at its Brit Awards celebration gig last month, described the trio's contribution as "aural mogadon for people too scared to buy Pink Floyd albums". With friends like that... Manchester University (0161-832 1111), Feb 16; Sheffield University (0114 2768555), Feb 17; Barrowlands, Glasgow (0141-552 4601), Feb 18; Mayfair, Newcastle (0191-232 3109), Feb 19; Metropolitan University, Leeds (0113 2442999), Feb 21; Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton (01902 312030), Feb 22; Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Feb 25; Junction, Cambridge (01223 412600), Feb 26; Pyramid, Portsmouth (01705 826666), Feb 27; Leicester University (0116 2556282), March 1; Roadmender, Northampton (01604 604222), March 2; Bristol University (0117 9299008), March 3.



Andrew Shore as King Priam in the English National Opera's gripping account of Tippet's opera

JAZZ

Clive Davis

JIMMY WITHERSPOON/MARTY GROZ: Fifty years ago Jimmy Witherspoon was singing the Kansas City blues with the Jay McShann band. Now a senior citizen, he no longer packs quite as powerful a punch as he did in his younger days, but like that other veteran, Charles Brown, he still delivers the 12-bar blues with worldly sophistication. Marty Grosz, a wonderful raconteur and purveyor of witticisms, takes his inspiration from the hot jazz and pop tunes of the 1920s and 1930s. A genial live performer, his persona is summed up in the title of his album, *Songs I Learned At My Mother's Knee And Other Low Joints*.

Witherspoon: Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-946 6000), Fri 17, Sat 18; Grosz: Pizza Express, Dean St, London, W1, (0171-439 8722), Wed 15 to Sat 18.

EBERHARD WEBER: In the wrong hands, the solo jazz recital can turn into the most self-indulgent and long-winded of affairs. The German double bass player Eberhard Weber is one of the handful of musicians who can keep an audience enthralled without resorting to gimmickry. He has developed a wholly individual approach to the bass, expanding its range through the use of additional strings and extremely subtle use of electronics. Tonight's concert will be preceded by a set by Tommy Smith and Murray McLachlan. Tomorrow evening there will be an extra solo performance by the lyrical pianist David Newton.

Musie Hall, Aberdeen (01224 641122), tonight, 8.30pm; **Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1** (0171-928 8800), tomorrow, 7.45pm; **Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton** (01273 643010), Mon 13, 8pm; **Arncliffe, Bristol** (0117 9299191) Tues 14, 8pm.

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

UNFOLDING BEAUTY: Described as a "secret collection", the artefacts belonging to the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers are virtually unknown even to members and have never been shown in public before. They illustrate the 266-year history of this small City Livery company with fans and related items. The star exhibits include a group of fans bequeathed

to the company by Princess Alice, an enthusiastic commissioner and collector, among them one autographed by members of the Royal Family since Queen Victoria. The Fan Museum, 12 Crooms Hill, Greenwich, London SE10 (0181-858 7879), Tuesday-Saturday, 11am-4.30pm; Sunday noon-4.30pm, until May 14. Admission £2.50.

ELISABETH FRINK: The death of Elisabeth Frink in 1993 is appropriately marked by a memorial exhibition drawn largely from the sculptor's own collection and organised by Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The work spans a period of more than 30 years, with her early rise to prominence (the Tate bought a sculpted Bird when she was still a student) to her latest monumental pieces such as the *Risen Christ* commissioned for Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The animal pieces are particularly strong, and the visored *Goggle Heads* retain all their mysterious power. The exhibition also includes her expressive drawings and economically powerful prints.

Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (01203 524731) Monday-Friday, noon-8pm; Saturday 10am-8pm, until March 18. £

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

TATE NEW DISPLAYS: The annual rehang has been unveiled at the Tate Gallery, and there are plenty of delights to discover. In the historic British collection, Zoffany's recently acquired *Colonel Mordaunt's Cock Match* stands out. Painted in India around 1784-6, its lively observation of a grand social gathering at the court of the Nawab Wazir seems with incident. In the modern collection, rooms devoted to individuals as diverse as Wyndham Lewis and John Latham are rewarding. So is Room 28, where Guston and Dubuffet confront each other with formidable energy, watched over by Baselitz's impressive wood carving of a grim, paint-smeared figure.

Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000). £

ZARINA BHIMJI: After a year as an Artist Fellow at Cambridge, Zarina Bhimji is showing a substantial exhibition of her recent work at Kettle's Yard. Using photography and ready-made objects, she explores issues of institutional control and the eugenics movement, which argued for racial improvement through selective breeding. Large, blurred portraits of mixed-race individuals look like condemned prisoners on metal shelves, and Bhimji's recent work in pathology museums yields disturbing images. But in the most powerful exhibit, called *I Will Always Be Here*, a cluster of burnt kurtas (shirts) hangs down mournfully from the ceiling of a high, narrow room. A haunting show by a young artist worth following as she moves between memory and fantasy, violence and unexpected sensuousness.

Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124), until Feb 26.

DANCE

John Percival

ROYAL BALLET: Performances of Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* replace the previously announced revival of his *Prince of the Pagodas*. Darcey Bussell and Jonathan Cope dance the title parts on Friday 17 and Wednesday 22 at 7.30pm; there will be further showings in April. Also given this week is *Giselle* with Viviana Durante on Tuesday 14 at 7.30pm and Saturday 18 at 7pm, and Sarah Wildor makes her debut on Saturday 18 at 2pm.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). £

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET: Two performances of Ashton's *La fille mal gardée*, the most touching of all modern ballets, end the brief London season today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. In between, a chance to see how the company nurtures young choreographers with a special showing in the Lilian Baylis studio theatre at 6.15pm of *Dives Jives* with Lazarus, a new work by Jillian Mackrill to a score by Nigel Swinford.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-278 8916). £

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THE LIVE BED SHOW: Looking like a mushroom with a hangover, Paul Merton wows Caroline Quentin with lugubrious love-letters and doleful, self-deprecating quips. As a study of the British way of sex, Arthur Smith's play is an anthropologist's delight, at once unfunny and hilarious.

Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5093). Evenings, Monday to Thursday, 8pm; Friday and Saturday, 8.45pm; matinees: Friday and Saturday at 6.30pm.

THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL: Do not be daunted by the Theatre de Complicite's fancy name and haute couture image. This is a touching celebration of the spirit of survival as embodied by Lilo Baur's salty sympathetic peasant, struggler and eccentric. Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (0171-379 5399). Evenings, Monday to Friday, 7.30pm; Saturdays, 8pm; matinee: Saturday, 2.30pm. £

• More theatre, page 6.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

HEAVENLY CREATURES (18): The New Zealand director Peter Jackson leaps into the front league with this compelling, imaginative retelling of the strange, fatal friendship between two Christchurch girls in the early 1950s. Murder is the end product, but gore plays little part. Instead Jackson sweeps us up into the girls' thoughts and carries us through a chain of events that are bizarre and hilarious, scary and erotic, touching and chilling. Some of the girls' imaginings are created with plasticine figures. But the film, most adroitly cast, and shot wherever possible in the original locations, retains a human face to the end.



Heavenly Creatures: Melanie Lynskey and Kate Winslet

Gate (0171-727 4043); Lumiere (0171-836 0691); MGM Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Renoir (0171-837 8402); Richmond (0181-332 0030); Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772); Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366).

STAR TREK: GENERATIONS (PG): Patrick Stewart and other stars of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* television series make their film debut in a clumsily plotted but acceptable adventure that should pave the way for better things. To bridge the gap between *Star Trek* crews, William Shatner's Captain Kirk is on hand to offer tongue-in-cheek remarks ("I take it the odds are against us, and the outlook is grim"). The villain of the piece is Malcolm McDowell, a megalomaniac keen to harness the galaxy's energy ribbons.

Empire (0800 888911); MGMs Baker Street (0171-935 9772); Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); Trocadero (0171-434 0031); UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

• More films, page 6.

CHILDREN

LONDON

Make a Lion Head and Chinese lanterns. Make a crash course in the martial art Tai chi, and watch acrobats and musicians as part of the Chinese New Year workshop. Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today and tomorrow from 1.30-4pm. Admission free. £

Hot Shoe Shuffle: Tap show. Churchill Theatre, Bromley (0181-460 6677). Last day today at 2.30pm and 7.45pm. Adults from £8.50, children from £6.50. £

Major Mustard's Magical Mustard Pot Puppet show for three to seven-year-olds. *Cinderella* for four to eight-year-olds (also puppet show). Major Mustard's Little Angel Theatre, 14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross Street, N1 2DN (0171-226 1787). Today and tomorrow at 11am; *Cinderella*: Today and tomorrow at 3pm. Adults £5, children £4. £

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

ROALD DAHL'S CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION: Feeling brave? Then test out the Feely Box (put hand in box and guess object). Less scary attractions include original Quentin Blake illustrations, colouring competition, video. Buckinghamshire County Museum, St Mary's Square, Aylesbury (01296 88849). Today from 10am-1.30pm and from 2pm-5pm. Closed tomorrow. Until March 4. Admission free.



Children's writer Roald Dahl

CHESHIRE

George's Marvellous Medicine: Extended tour of Roald Dahl's riveting tale. Lyceum Theatre, Crewe (01270 537333). Starts Wednesday 15 at 10am and 1.30pm. Various times until Sat 18. Adults from £6.50 upwards, children £6. £

HERTFORDSHIRE

Symbols in Silk: Exhibition of Chinese court costumes and textiles from the Qing Imperial Court (1644-1911). Workshops during half-term week (week beginning Feb 20). Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans (01727 819340). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2pm-5pm. Admission free. £

SCOTLAND

STAR TREK: THE EXHIBITION. Come and marvel at this life-size model of the Enterprise and learn all about its crew. City Arts Centre, Edinburgh (0131-558 1018). Today from 10am-5.30pm and tomorrow from noon-5pm. Adults £3.50, children £2. Family ticket (two plus two) £9. £

TYNE AND WEAR

Creepy Crawly Roadshow: Giant size replicas of insects, spiders and their relatives. Hancock Museum, the University, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191-222 7418). Starts Thur 16, Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Sundays 2pm-5pm. Adults £1.80, children £1, under-fours free. £

WALES

World School Debating Championships: Pick up tips on how to talk persuasively. Suitable for teenagers upwards. St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (01222 342611). Today, 6.15pm. Free. £

YORKSHIRE

Circus Workshop Open Day: Juggling, acrobatics, trapeze stunts and face-painting to celebrate the opening of the new Circus Arts Centre. Green Top, Circus Centre, Holwell Road, Brightside, Sheffield, South Yorkshire (0114 2560922). Today at 2pm. Admission free. £

Jorvik Festival Craft Day: Candlemaking, leatherwork and more. Also Viking longboat regatta from 10am-4pm along the River Ouse between Skeldergate and Ouse Bridges. Admission free. Hospitality, Museum Gardens, York (01904 611944). Today at 9.30am. Children 50p.

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill deserts the office for a one-day retreat to Alton Abbey in Hampshire

AT YOUR SERVICE



AFTER ALTON Abbey was described to me by one regular visitor as the "best-kept secret in the Church of England". It became my religious duty to visit and ensure it no longer remained so. The same visitor, an "oblate" or lay member who lives outside but remains in close contact with the community, described it as the place to go when you need six weeks holiday but can only spare a day. It sounded perfect.

The Abbey is that rare combination of the Anglican and Catholic which appears to work, a community of men who follow the Benedictine "Rule", or monastic way of life, within the Church of England. St Benedict's rule, considered one of the most important factors in the foundation of western civilisation, is the norm for all Western monks and, as a Christian guide for living, has had incalculable influence on our educational and legal systems.

When I arrived in time for candlemass, the monastery was still settling down after the brief flurry of publicity which followed the decision by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Right Rev Timothy Bavin, to exchange his purple for the black monastic habit and join Alton Abbey as a postulant next year. Ever in need of retreat, I was on a "desert day", a material escape from the office, if not the mobile phone or pager, and a chance to recuperate spiritually.

Mass was the third "divine office" or service of a day which, for the seven monks at Alton, began at 5.30am with the vigil, went on to morning prayer (*lauds*) at 7.15am through mass at 9am, midday office (*sest*), evening prayer (*vespers*) at 5pm and night prayer (*compline*) at 8.30pm. In line with most men's Benedictine houses the monastery recently



Abbot Giles Hill leads candlemass in the tiny flint chapel

dropped the use of the traditional Latin names and no longer holds the morning office of *terce* or the afternoon office, *none*. Our candlemass, on the Feast of the Presentation, which marks the end of the Christmas period and the beginning of the run-up to Lent and Easter, was led by youthful, charismatic abbot, Dom Giles Hill. After the monks processed in holding candles, followed by a surprisingly large congregation which almost filled the tiny flint chapel, he said: "Bless these candles and make them holy. May we who carry them praise your glory and walk in the heart of goodness."

Monks enter Alton Abbey as postulants, which they remain for between three and six months, then become novices for 12 months and one day. If they wish to carry on they apply for election

and must gain a two-thirds majority from the other monks before they can take the junior vows of obedience, conversion of life and stability.

Novices remain in junior vows for three years, when they must apply for election to solemn vows, which are the same as junior vows except they have lifelong commitment. Contrary to popular belief, Benedictines have never taken vows of poverty and chastity, although these principles are implicit in their vows.

The last monk to join Alton was Anselm Shobrooke, more than four years ago. He has gone on to achieve a worldwide reputation as an iconographer. Of the seven monks, aged from 34 to 80, three are ordained and four are brothers, the only practical difference being that the priests can celebrate the eucharist. Besides desert

day, retreatants can go to Alton Abbey for weekends studying Jane Austen with Dom Nicholas Seymour, the guestmaster and a leading expert on the author, and for an icon painting week with Brother Anselm.

The monastery was founded as a religious order in 1884 by the Rev Charles Hopkins to care for merchant seamen. Fr Hopkins spent his first night sleeping in a tent, and for the first few years the monastery consisted of tin huts. Over coffee, the oldest monk, Dom Peter, who had been there for 58 years, explained his vocation. He said he had been a journalist on the *Hull Daily Mail*. "I always wanted to be a monk, from the age of seven. But I felt I ought to earn an ordinary living first. When I came here there were no electric lights or hot water. I have no regrets. I still enjoy it enormously. There is a certain peace about it."

Alton Abbey, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4AP.

ABBOT: The Rt Rev Dom Giles Hill.

ARCHITECTURE: Parts are recognised as masterpieces of 1930s architecture. The monastic buildings, in local flint, were designed by Sir Charles Nicholson who used Tintern Abbey on the Welsh borders as his model. ****

MUSIC: Strangely evocative Gregorian plainsong, chants predating the Middle Ages. ****

LITURGY: Based on the monastic divine office. The Abbey is in the process of revising its liturgies. In modern English but ancient-sounding in tone. ****

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Unparalleled. Coffee and tea, lunch of chili, supper of sausage rolls and baked beans, plus numerous monks and clergy on hand to offer spiritual succour. ****

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Cloistral and contemplative. ****

*stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

COVER STORY

3



Anne Cook and Stephen Clark met through *The Times*

Continued from page 1
photograph she had sent me didn't help. It was of her wearing a balaclava, sitting on a horse which was standing in a snowy field. Two answerphone messages later, they finally spoke to each other. "We talked for two hours the first time, it was mostly about how nervous we were, how we preferred water-skiing to doing the washing-up and the horrors of commuting," Stephen says.

They arranged to meet at Harry's Bar in London on a Friday night, but an hour before the date Anne felt too nervous and cancelled. "I felt so guilty afterwards that I rang up Stephen and apologised. I suggested he should come over to my house on the Sunday even though I knew it was mad to invite a stranger home," she says.

"The first thing I noticed when Stephen arrived was that we were wearing similar clothes: jeans, white T-shirts and blue blazers," Stephen only remembers seeing a tall, gaunt blonde and deciding he wanted to fatten her up.

They went out to lunch, and Stephen explained that he'd met his first wife at a disco when he was 21. They had had three children but had drifted apart over the years.

Eventually, Stephen, who works for an insurance company, had moved out, and had started dating someone from his office. After that relationship ended, he had become incredibly depressed, and had lost contact with all his old

friends. Then, he spotted Anne's advert and plucked up the courage to reply.

By lunchtime on the Monday Anne and Stephen had already called each other three times. "We didn't kiss on the first few dates. We were quite proper and met each other's families first," Stephen says. "My children and my ex-wife thought Anne would be a

leather-clad biker because she had a huge motorcycle, but once they'd met her, they all came to adore her. And I convinced her family I wasn't a bouncer."

Three weeks later Stephen proposed to Anne in a traffic jam as they commuted into London together. Four weeks later, Stephen moved in with Anne and started building her a conservatory — now complete — and this autumn they are planning to get married in Jamaica.

But how perilous is it to meet a partner in this way? Last year, Ann Mead, a south London GP, was beaten to death by Brian Vale, who became fixated with her during a five-month affair. They had met after he replied to her lonely heart advert in the *New Statesman* magazine.

Jenny, a journalist living in a small village in Sussex, has been placing adverts in *The Times's* *Rendezvous* column for the past three years, ever since her husband walked out, leaving her to bring up their two children alone. "It is incredibly difficult to meet new people when you have children. My friends are all



Cover photograph of Anne Cook and Stephen Clark, and feature photographs, by GRAHAM TROTT
Flowers by PULBROOK & GOULD

couples, everyone at work is female, and there seems to be a dearth of eligible men in Sussex. So I decided to advertise," she says.

"One of the replies was from a headmaster, who raised my hopes until the conversation turned to his corporal punishment of boys and how did I feel about watching. Another just wanted a surrogate mother, and one started his letter with: 'Despite my debilitating skin disease...' I stupidly also met one at home on the first date. He said he was a good-

looking Christian. He turned out to be creepy with greasy hair, and he had bought me a red lace garter. I showed him the door but he kept sending me underwear."

This hasn't deterred Jenny, but she has some tips for that first date. "Make sure you meet them in a public place, and tell someone where you are. Then you can make your excuses and leave if you think they are wrong for you. It's no more dangerous than meeting someone at a party or a wedding, and it is cheaper and more entertaining than going on a singles holiday. You have much more control if you place the ad. You can sift through the replies, ring them at work and do some checking. You may have to kiss one or two toads, but there are some princes," Jenny says.

Mark, a solicitor in Exeter, used *The Times* because he thought that, at 35, he was too old to chat up women in bars, and anyway they were usually boring. "One girl wrote that she had painted her bathroom black and had rigged up the toilet to play the Funeral March when it was flushed. But, on the whole, they were great women, feisty and amusing, and I have been living with a girl I met through my ad for more than a year now."

Virginia Ironside, the agony aunt for *Today* newspaper, says she receives sackfuls of letters asking whether she recommends placing or replying to a lonely heart advert or joining a dating agency. "Trust your instincts about the people you blind date," she says. "Any hint of them being weird and you should say goodbye straight away. Otherwise, I am in favour of ads and dating agencies. People work so hard and move around so much now that they can't rely on their family and friends to introduce them to people."

Robin Dunbar, professor of psychology at Liverpool University, has been studying the growth of lonely heart adverts in Britain for the past three years and is astonished by how fast they have caught on. These adverts first appeared in America in the 1890s, when pioneers sought wives who would cross the great plains with them. But the adverts acquired an unsavoury reputation, and young women soon stopped using them. While marriage bureaux and matchmakers flourished in America and Britain, personal adverts did not reappear until the 1970s.

The Times began its *Rendezvous* column six years ago. Margaret Harper, who runs the column, says: "Most advertisers are looking for someone to spend the rest of their

lives with. We reject ads from people asking for bed sports or S&M, as well as married people looking for an affair." But what should you include in an advert? According to Professor Dunbar, men tend to be more interested in looks and age, while women want maturity, status, wealth or humour — and, increasingly, someone who can vacuum the floor. "As men get older they get more picky; as women get older they will trade a slim lothario for a kind-hearted man, interested in the arts and fond of pasta."

The coding in the adverts is subtle. People never specify the area in which they live unless it is impressive, and they want you to know. In Britain, people indicate wealth by whether they are educated and own a car and a house, but never by their salary. "Educated" can mean one O level. "Professional" can be anything above a filing clerk, and "cuddly" usually does mean fat. But you can tell a lot

from the dinner party dating agencies, where you can meet eight men and women and check them out over the grilled goat's cheese and taramasalata.

If you decide on an agency, always make sure it is approved by the Association of British Introduction Agencies, which insists that stringent checks are made on clients — from addresses and telephone numbers to bank accounts.

One agency which advertises in the *Rendezvous* column, Drawing Down the Moon, caters for middle-class professionals. Mary Balfour set up the agency ten years ago and now has more than 800 hopefuls on her books, each paying £734 a year to be introduced to other clients. Only 20 per cent of those who apply to join are accepted.

"To join, you either need to be born into the middle class, have been educated into it or have a professional job. We find people from different classes just don't mix. Clients are apprehensive at the beginning that dating agencies are for losers but actually most people on my books are high-flyers who need someone to sort out their private lives in the same way they need accountants, doctors and decorators."

The agency's formula is remarkably successful. At any one time, about 45 per cent of the clients are "on hold together", meaning they are "an item" and out of circulation.

Initially, clients fill in a two-page profile on the films and music they like, their credit worthiness, which sports or exercise they prefer, their political persuasion, and the newspapers they read, and they attach a current photograph. Then they wait to be chosen. "Looks do influence people, but you don't have to be beautiful. Everyone has a vague idea of the type of face they like. Most men don't like

pictures of women in glasses or hats and women don't like men with moustaches," Mrs Balfour says. She also finds it difficult to match people aged over 43 and under 27 and prefers everyone to have had "a little previous experience".

Being matched with a mate may seem a little like applying for a romantic credit card. But Robert Proops, 50, a graphic designer, says the process is not as painful as it sounds. He went to Drawing Down the Moon after the break-up of his marriage and the end of a long-term relationship.

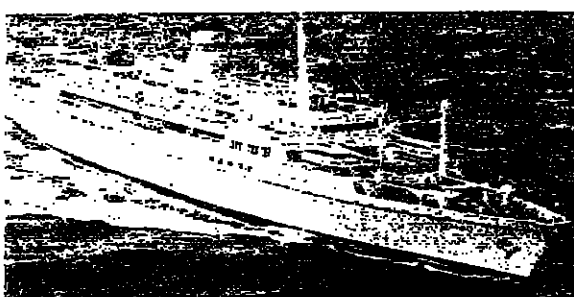
"It reconstructed my ego. You are sent profiles of people who want to meet you and you start to think maybe life is not all that bad. You always have someone to go to the cinema with or to the theatre and there are endless picnics. I've opened a brilliant social life. I'm open about going to a dating agency. When one of my friends recently got married, the bride was desperate that he didn't mention in his speech that they met through a dating agency, which was a shame. There are a lot of lonely people who don't need to be. Why are we still squeamish about these old-fashioned ideas of how to fall in love?" he says.

The Americans have gone one step further. Single women can now let their fingers do the walking through a glossy mail-order catalogue — or "male order" as the cover boasts — of eligible bachelors, each checked out by private detectives. For \$5.95, *The Bachelor Book* offers photographs and addresses of professionals who are rich, funny and clever, with references from their mothers, sisters or former wives bearing witness that the man is "a real nice guy". Mindi Rudan, the magazine's publisher, is now thinking of launching a similar magazine in Britain. "It was my grandmother's idea. She thought that it was a shame that so many of my female friends were single and unhappy. She used to say: 'there is a cover for every pot somewhere, so why not do a bit of rummaging around?'"



From America, *The Bachelor Book* and *The Bachelorette Book* are glossy mail-order catalogues of eligible men and women. Similar magazines may soon be launched here

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ARTS

7

RECORDINGS: Glenn Miller's wartime sessions rediscovered; Marion from Manchester moves up; a double Purcell celebration

In the mood again

If there was ever the right moment for a Glenn Miller revival, this must be it. 50 years after the end of the Second World War, 50 years, too, after Miller's light aircraft disappeared in bad weather over the English Channel. In truth, however, there has never been much need for his music to be rediscovered. The many "ghost" bands that have continued to bear his name here and in America, and the sheer durability of the melodies and the slick arrangements, have seen to that.

As many a music historian has taken pains to point out, Miller's orchestra was not regarded as the best of its time in purely musical terms. Count Basie and Duke Ellington are just two of the bandleaders who could claim priority.

But if Miller has suffered a good deal at the hands of most of the jazz cognoscenti, there is no way of ignoring his achievement in fashioning a gently swinging sound that appealed to the broad swathe of dancers in the ballrooms. At a time of anguish and uncertainty, "In the Mood" and "American Patrol" offered a refuge. Hence the irony of a new set of wartime sessions being issued on a label called Happy Days.

Compilations of greatest hits regularly flow into the high street shops. Determined collectors all have their cache of rarities, many lifted from wartime broadcasts made by the larger and more ambitious unit Miller assembled after enlisting in the armed services in 1942. Yet for all this abundance, the appearance of a

JAZZ

Clive Davis

GLENN MILLER
The Lost Recordings
Happy Days CDHDA01/2

collection of Abbey Road performances from late 1944, *Glenn Miller: The Lost Recordings*, is certain to create a stir.

The tracks were originally laid down for the American Broadcasting Station in Europe, a London-based operation which beamed talk and music to the Continent. Miller, who was by this time an Air Force major, appeared in six "Music for the Wehrmacht" shows in all, the last made less than three weeks before his death. A mixture of hits and less familiar compositions, the tunes were interspersed with snippets of patriotic conversation with the programme's German hostess, known as "Ise". None of this was intended for commercial release.

The band also cut four numbers, including two songs with the vocalist Dinah Shore, which were never subsequently issued due to contractual tangles.

The full history of this archive material, laden with all the details of matrix numbers, mislaid master discs and red tape, is about as impenetrable as the fog that engulfed Miller's plane as it took off on its last flight. In his history of the Abbey Road studios, published a decade ago, Brian Southall referred to the mysterious disappearance of the masters, and rumours that they had been spirit-

ed away to the United States.

Suffice it to say that a high-quality copy subsequently came to the attention of Alan Dell, the BBC broadcaster and leading light of the Glenn Miller Society. His engineer, Ted Kendall, has made a sympathetic job of the restoration process. Compared with other Miller reissues — for example, some of the American broadcasts made for NBC — the Abbey Road sound quality is full-bodied and resonant. Surface noise, always a problem in the re-mastering process, only rarely impinges.

Widely regarded as Miller's finest achievement, the Allied Expeditionary Force band amounted to a full-scale concert ensemble, equipped with a lush, 20-strong string section. Violins were invariably restricted to stilled accompaniments in the swing era, but on Shore's rendition of *Stardust* they are used with grace and sensitivity. The orchestra's main asset, aside from the seamless orchestrations and immaculate musicianship, was its versatility, embracing the rampant tempo of *Jeep Jockey* and the unabashed sentiment of *Moonlight Serenade*.

This double album also contains assured German versions of such standards as *Long Ago and Far Away* and *Begin the Beguine*. Every little bit helped in the pursuit of Total War; Miller's pounding brass section alone must have been worth an artillery division. As Ise comments: "Das klangt typisch amerikanisch (that sounds typically American)". Yes, indeed.



Glenn Miller, whose gently swinging music provided a refuge at a time of uncertainty — and sounds just as good 50 years later

POP SINGLES

David Sinclair

MARION

Sleep EP

London LONX 360**

A PROMISING major-label debut from the band who are being touted as Manchester's answer to Suede, *Sleep* comes crackling in with a fast, choppy riff overlaid by a "rather asthmatic" harmonica line.

"If you believe your dreams'll come true/Then sleep is all you'll ever do," Jaime Harding sings with a Morrissey-influenced sneer, while the guitars slice through the song with merry hooligan vigour.

Two other tracks, *Father's Day* and *Moving Fast*, boast the same purposeful thrust, a sound reminiscent of the days when Pete Townshend used to write three-minute songs that had the power to explode like acid bombs.

Currently doing a tidy job on tour with Morrissey, Marion look and sound as if they are set for far bigger things soon.



Marion: big future

POP ALBUMS

David Sinclair

BELLY

King

4AD CAD 5004**

ONLY the might of Whitney Houston's *Bodyguard* soundtrack prevented Belly's debut album, *Star*, from topping the British chart two years ago. Yet the line-up which recorded that album had not played a single gig together, and at that point the group, led by Tanya Donelly, was still perceived as a mere offshoot of her half-

sister Kristin Hersh's band, Throwing Muses.

It's a different story with *King*. A solid year of touring and a million-selling album behind them, and Belly have evolved into a confident, road-hardened unit. Their awesome bass player, Gail Greenwood, who wasn't featured on *Star*, has knocked what used to be a rather fussy rhythm section into much leaner shape. And Donelly has co-written (with Greenwood or Thomas Gorman) a collection of songs with a cool, assured lustre.

Inevitably, though, they have lost the gauche, slightly quirky quality which was part of *Star*'s charm, and any artistry in the song arrangements have been rigorously ironed out, making *King* a much more direct and conventional sounding collection than its predecessor.

Donelly's lyrics are still woven through with strange riddles, and there are moments of relative calm during the ethereal *The Bees* and the dreamy verses of *Red*. But more typical are the galloping rhythms, chiming guitars and catchy choruses of *Puberty*, *Super-Connected* and the single, *Now They'll Sleep*.

BAROQUE

Stephen Pettit

GARDINER PURCELL COLLECTION

Soliists, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, English Baroque Soloists/Gardiner

Erato 4509-96371-2

(8 discs)***

A HENRY PURCELL COMPANION

Various artists

Harmonia Mundi HMX

2901528-33 (6 discs)***

STRANGE: even though the amount of the earlier composer's surviving music is far less than that of the later composer, no record company has done for Purcell in 1995 what Phillips did for Mozart in 1991 and promised a complete edition. This oversight has less to do with the respective merits of each — in different ways the one is as great as the other — than with their relative marketability.

Two companies with perhaps the largest back-catalogues of Purcell, Erato and Harmonia Mundi, are celebrating the centenary with boxes of re-releases which succeed in their dual purpose of tempting the novice and indulging the experienced at minimum expense.

If on balance I would prefer to invest in the Harmonia Mundi selection, that is because Erato's box has two limitations. Firstly, it doubles

up as a record of the development of the conducting and performance practices of John Eliot Gardiner; he is the only conductor in the set, so that we get nobody else's point of view. Secondly, it concentrates only on Purcell's theatre music and secular odes, where Harmonia Mundi's box surveys a wider variety of genres.

For Gardiner aficionados, it is nevertheless fascinating to be reminded of how things were in those days when he eschewed gut strings and bows that curved the wrong way round, and preferred an unashamedly Romantic kind of opulence; days when the Monteverdi Choir was a good deal larger and a good deal less incisive than it is now.

The earliest disc, of the 1694 Ode for Queen Mary's Birthday, *Come ye Sons of Art*, and of music for Queen Mary's funeral, dates from 1977, and shows Gardiner at his most Leppard-like. Two discs originally published in 1980 and both recorded in February 1979 show the revolution at a crucial stage. Music from *The Tempest* still has the Monte-

verdi Orchestra playing modern instruments, though by this time Gardiner has made concessions to the camp of the historically informed. But for the lovely semi-opera *The Indian Queen*, completed after Purcell's sudden and untimely death by his brother Daniel, his period-style band, the English Baroque Soloists, make their bow; and what light and crispness they bring to this music.

Of course, Gardiner's way with Purcell has since become even more characterful, at once leaner and richer, as his splendid, hugely appealing account of *Hail Bright Cecilia* (first released in 1983), prefaced with the impossibly slight and joyous masque for that most serious of Shakespearean tragedies, *Timon of Athens* (1988), and the fine, complete account of *King Arthur* (1988), all amply testify.

The fact that Harmonia Mundi includes only the Deller Consort's disc of excerpts from *King Arthur* is a minus point, though I find the raw sound of The King's Musick, an original instruction band directed by Rodrick Skaping, appealing. This period piece is complemented by another, Alfred Deller's Purcell recital from 1979, with a continuo team including William Christie at the harpsichord. The sound that affected Tippett when he first heard Deller sing back in the Forties can still haunt.

The remainder of the collection is more recent. Philippe Herreweghe and the Collegium Vocale released their clean accounts of some of Purcell's better known English anthems in 1993, the same year that John Butt's enterprising disc of organ works, made at the O'Neill Collection of Historic Organs at the University of California, Berkeley, first appeared. This more intimate aspect of Purcell's art is further exemplified in London Baroque's 1990 recital of string works, fulsomely though lively played, while the set is worthily completed by William Christie's 1986 account with Les Arts Florissants of the one and only true Purcell opera, *Dido and Aeneas*, crowned by a reading of *Dido's Lament* by Guillemette Laurens which oozes all the emotion one could possibly want from any performance in any style.

SO PERSUASIVE and intensely moving was Claudio Abbado's Mahler Ninth with the Berlin Philharmonic at last year's Proms (repeated on the radio recently) that any new arrival in the catalogues has a great deal to live up to. Neither of these new discs eclipses Abbado, let alone Bernstein, but it is — and this

may surprise some — Sinopoli and the Philharmonia who come closer.

In the opening movement Sinopoli — aided by the marvellous sound created by the DG engineers — is better at catching the wild ecstasies in the periodic outbursts. However, in the subdued passages in between he unfortunately loses his way, with too protracted a line. Masur (in a live performance on a single disc — Sinopoli's occupies two) keeps his thread better here, but then his accounts of the section marked "Mit Wür" ("with rage") passes for nothing, where Sinopoli is ideally impetuous and incandescent.

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WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

10

COLLECTING

Antique perfume bottles have always been highly prized but, as Michael Hall finds, modern mass-produced items are also popular

On the scent of bargains in a bottle



As Ruth Warner carefully pulls out the drawers of the cabinets containing her precious collection of scent bottles, faint perfumes steal into the air — the ghosts of the lavender water, eau de cologne or lily-of-the-valley once worn by beauties of the past. "I wish I knew more about the women who owned the bottles," she says. "I often try to imagine whose dressing table they stood on and what sort of life their owners led."

After 18 years of collecting scent bottles, Mrs Warner has lost count of the number she owns, but 43 large drawers have been filled, and there are shelves stacked with prized pieces and recent acquisitions. She collects not only bottles but also anything related to the perfume industry — including books, old advertisements, antique display cab-

inets and dummy bottles for counter display. She has boxes of 1920s perfumed cigarettes, a 1940s perfumed hairbrush and terracotta perfume bricks for scenting linen cupboards.

Her collection is now internationally renowned and draws visitors from the design and fashion worlds as well as *parfumeurs*, glass manufacturers and historians.

Collecting is a family pastime, and Mrs Warner's husband, Bob, has an important collection of antique radios. A chance purchase in 1977 of an unopened 1920s Yardley scent bottle at a local antiques fair led Mr Warner to suggest that here was a good subject for a new collection. This was astute advice. Antique scent bottles have been popular since the 19th century, but collectors concentrated on the highly prized — and now valuable — porcelain examples made in

the 18th century. In contrast, mass-produced glass bottles made from the 1850s onwards are a recent enthusiasm.

The immense variety of this material has its origins in the introduction of artificial ingredients for scents in the mid-19th century. This led to an expansion in the range of brands, all of which had to be given a distinctive personality by their name and packaging. New technology meant that the glass industry was able to respond by mass-producing highly decorative bottles at very little cost. The result is a rich field for collectors, with the added attraction that contemporary material is every bit as inventive and delightful as the antiques.

Although Mrs Warner confesses to a special love of the 1920s and 1930s Art Deco designs that are now highly coveted by collectors, these



Ruth Warner has spent 18 years building up her collection of scent bottles, counter displays (left), books, old advertisements and antique cabinets



A popular scent spray, which dates from the 1940s



High prices are paid for bottles in their original packaging, such as these 1920s perfumes

THE TIMES Win a bottle of perfume



WHEN Cacharel, the French perfume house, introduce new fragrances the design of the bottles is given almost the same care and attention as the scent itself.

Today we offer readers the chance to win a bottle of Cacharel perfume, worth up to £20.

Cacharel pour l'Homme is a blend of lavender, nutmeg, sandalwood and cedar and comes in a glass and metal flask.

Anais Anais combines hyacinth, orange blossom, jasmine and rose — plus sandalwood, incense, cedar and iris. The perfume comes in a rounded bottle of white opaline glass, decorated with flowers.

Loulou, named after a silent film character played by Louise Brooks, has vanilla, incense, sandalwood, musk, heliotrope, jasmine, orange blossom, cassia and ylang ylang. Its blue opaline bottle has a bright red stopper.

Eden, created by the perfumier Jean Guichard, combines waterlily, lotus and rush with flowers and fruits plus patchouli in a green opaline bottle with a golden stopper.

We have 100 bottles of Cacharel perfume to be won. To enter the contest, send the answers to the questions below on a postcard with your name and address to: Times Perfume Contest, 5 Brittons Court, London EC8B 1NG. Please state which of the four perfumes you would prefer to receive. The winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by the closing date of February 20, 1995. Usual Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

The questions:
1) Name one of the ways in which perfume makers extract the essential oils from flowers and plants.
2) In which century did the use of perfume become commonplace in Europe?

Parfums
(cacharel)

form just one of many distinct groups in her collection. English material is a speciality and Mrs Warner has impressive displays of early Boots and Yardley bottles. One of her great enthusiasms is Bourjois's famous "Evening in Paris" scent. As well as 1940s examples of the midnight-blue bottles in their original boxes lined with white satin, she has a charming group of boxes made of Bakelite in the 1930s and 1940s in such appropriate evening shapes as owls or dancing slippers. "These are like gold-dust," Mrs Warner says. "You won't find them for less than £50 now."

Despite the growing number of collectors of 20th-century scent bottles, there are few organised groups. In America there is the International Perfume Bottle Association, but there is no collectors' club in Britain. Mrs Warner relies on contacts with other collectors and those in the perfume industry to add to her collection.

Car boot sales have now replaced back-street junk shops as places to make the best finds, although it's still possible to pick up interesting bottles at collectors' and antique fairs, usually for only a few pounds. However, anybody with some knowledge can still find bargains: Mrs Warner recently paid only 50p at a local market stall for a rare unopened 1920s cologne bottle still with its original miniature cork-screw for removing the cap.

New collectors are most likely to find large dressing-table atomisers. If unusual, decorative and in good condition, these can now fetch up to £300. It is hard to provide precise guidelines about prices in such a varied field, but some of the most highly-sought-after items have reached spectacular prices at auction: one buyer recently paid £43,000 for a Lalique flask, a world record for a scent bottle. Prices in the hundreds of pounds are common for rare bottles from celebrated firms such as Cöty, Schiaparelli, Dior or Guerlain, as these are eagerly



Each brand has its own distinctive bottle design

collected on the Continent — a bottle of "Miss Dior" in its original mirrored box is worth between £800 and £1,200.

Bottles in their original packaging fetch the highest prices, and condition is important. "But never wash a perfume bottle," Mrs Warner

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collected on the Continent — a bottle of "Miss Dior" in its original mirrored box is worth between £800 and £1,200. Bottles in their original packaging fetch the highest prices, and condition is important. "But never wash a perfume bottle," Mrs Warner

says. "Even small traces of scent make it more interesting to collectors."

But collectors don't have to concentrate on the chic *parfumeurs*. Mrs Warner has a charming group of pottery bottles produced as tourist souvenirs and is much attracted by the off-beat and unusual, ranging from a rare "Did-dums" bottle in the form of a tiny-tot designed by Mabel

Lucie Atwell, to cologne bottles produced for First World War first-aid kits.

Most delightful of all, perhaps, is an unexpected link between her interests and those of her husband — Mrs Warner lifts the top off what appears to be a miniature Bakelite 1930s radio to reveal three tiny scent bottles.

● The author is the architectural editor of Country Life.

SALE ROOM

□ The Fine Art and Antiques Fair, starting on Tuesday at Olympia in London, has a Gallic feel, with a contingent of French dealers offering continental furniture at £500 to £150,000. A pair of 18th century chinoiserie Venetian doors is priced at about £30,000.

□ Also on Tuesday, Christie's South Kensington devotes a sale to fans, the most valuable being one decorated with three vignettes of ladies, dressed and nude, by the turn-of-the-century artist Charles Conder (£1,500 to £2,000).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171 581 7611); Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5 (0171 370 8189).



Unopened bottles are highly sought-after

Thursday, February 23.

PROPERTY

13

Restoring an Edwardian terrace house to its former glory is a time and money-consuming process

Dirty weekends with a difference

First he bought the wardrobe, now he has the house to match. The wardrobe is an Arts and Crafts creation with handsome copper strapwork, and it is one of Martin Harrison's prized possessions. The house is an Edwardian terrace building, but many of its original features were destroyed by the previous owners.

"The wardrobe has finally found a good resting place," Mr Harrison said. "I have had it for years but it has never fitted in anywhere I lived before." His wardrobe is made of satinwood by Shapland and Pether of Barnstaple, and has a copper band with an exploding poppy design — a favourite icon of the Arts and Crafts movement. The same exploding poppy design decorates the grand wooden fireplace in the Harrison's main bedroom — one of the few original features that was still intact when they moved in.

If Mr Harrison, a graphic designer, is at a loss what to do, or wants to contemplate the problems of restoring his house, he polishes a bit more of the copper on his Shapland and Pether wardrobe. This thoughtful activity has been going on for several years and still there is a dull patch at the top that needs finishing. Mr Harrison is a



The Edwardian terrace house

perfectionist and he is working through the whole house in the same way, inch by inch, restoring its Edwardian decor.

The house had been radically modernised by the previous owners, who tore out chimney breasts in the downstairs rooms without even putting in buttresses to support the chimney above. The roof was in a very poor state and the loft was full of bows and buckets to catch the rain. The water tank had a decomposed bird in it. The downpipes from the gutters were full of rubble so that water overflowed from them and penetrated the walls. There were live wires in the bathroom and a 1970s corner bath which the Harrisons find uncomfortable whichever way they sit in it.

The house, which is located between Clapham and Wandsworth Commons in south London, had been on the market for two years when the Harrisons bought it. They paid £136,000 for it a year ago — reduced from £149,000. They badly needed more space and they could not afford anything else in the area. Now all their spare cash and much of their energy is going into its restoration. So far they have spent £13,000 and will probably

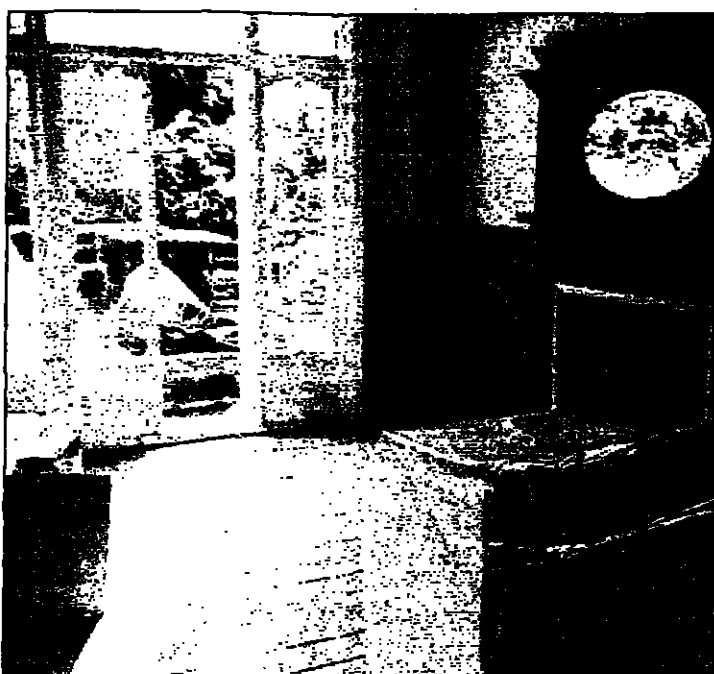
have to spend the same again before they are finished — but if they get it right the house could be worth £180,000 fully restored.

The Harrisons began with a 28-page report from a structural engineer that cost £500. The roof needed urgent work. The Harrisons did not want to spoil the original line of the roof even though they can only see it from one of the bedroom windows. They managed to find old chimney pots and cowl that matched the other houses in the street. They also rebuilt the chimney stacks to the original height — even though one of them will never be used — and used correct period pointing for the brickwork.

"The type of pointing favoured today would be visually wrong for an Edwardian house," Mr Harrison said. "We wanted to do right by the house. I sometimes just look out of the window and admire the roof because I feel so pleased with it."

Mr Harrison scratched away layers of old paintwork to uncover former colour schemes and found that viridian green was the colour used on the hall and stairs in the Edwardian times followed in the 1920s or 1930s by muck brown. Under a shabby hallway carpet was the original black and white geometric tiled floor. His research also involved watching what other people throw on to skips and close observation of houses up and down the street. "I have got a lot of ideas about original features that way."

He salvaged an old scullery door from one skip and sculling boards and mouldings from another. The mouldings will find a place in the Harrison's rear kitchen/dining room. However, the kitchen has become a matter of contention between the couple. Mr Harrison wants to find an old cast-iron range to provide authentic Edwardian heating, although the house already has modern central heating installed. "It is under discussion," said Mr Harrison looking across at his wife, who pulled a face. "I am



Top: restoration work in the kitchen. Above: Mr Harrison emerges from cleaning air vents in the cellar. Right: reinstating a chimney breast



Fact file: house restoration

□ It is important to get a full structural survey of the property.

□ Consider joining The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 37 Spital Square, London E1 (0171-377 1644). Annual subscription is £24. The society advises members on all types of buildings, not just listed ones. It produces technical pamphlets, including information on pointing stone and brick walling, and the control of damp.

□ Brick Development Association, Woodside House, Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire

(0344 885657) publishes information on bricks and suppliers of bricks nationwide.

□ Architectural salvage yards are a good source of original features. Salvo News provides details of architectural salvage throughout Britain. Contact: Salvo, P. O. Box 1295, Bath BA1 3TJ.

□ Useful reading: *Period Details* by Judith and Martin Miller (Mitchell Beazley, £14.99) and *Collins' Complete Home Restoration Manual* by Albert Jackson and David Day (HarperCollins, £19.99).

OLIVER GILLIE



Newly built chimney stacks



SUTHERLAND ST, SW1 £525,000
A well planned, spacious house with a self-contained garden flat. 3 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 2 receps, kit. Flat: 2 rooms, kit, bath, gdn. Freehold
BELGRAVIA: 0171-730 9854



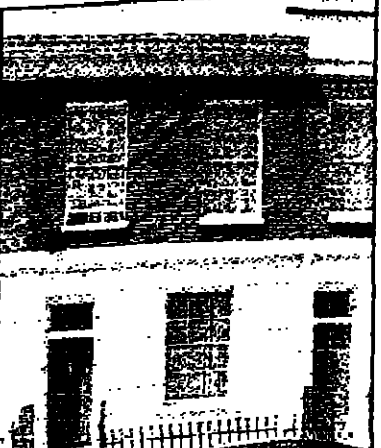
RUTLAND LODGE, SW11 £925,000
A fine detached Victorian house overlooking Battersea Park nr Albert Bridge. 5 beds, 3 baths, 4 receps, kit, west facing garden, summerhouse. Freehold
BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174



PARSONS GREEN, SW6 £525,000
A handsome house with views over the Green. 5 beds, double recep, kit, conservatory/dining rm, large cellar, 45ft w/facing garden. Freehold
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223



PRIMROSE HILL, NW1 £525,000
A lovely crescent nr Regents Park, a listed early Victorian house. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, Smallbone kit, front gdn, paved rear patio. Freehold
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171-722 5556



COULSON STREET, SW3 £475,000
Quietly situated nr Sloane Square, a period house with a covered on-street parking space. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, study, kit, clrm, patio. Freehold
CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484



HERONDALE AVE, SW18 £415,000
A handsome, spacious house near Wandsworth Common. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit, cellar, loft, utility, clrm, 82ft garden & parking. Freehold
WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

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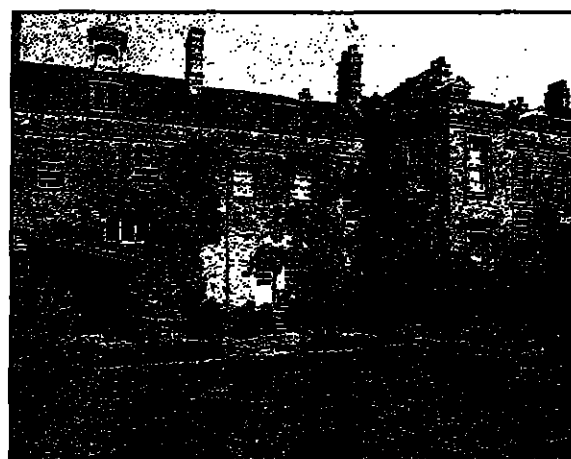
ARGYLL ROAD, W8 £1,450,000
An elegant and beautifully decorated Victorian house with a west facing garden. 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, 44ft drawing room, dining room, Smallbone kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom. Freehold
KENSINGTON: 0171-727 0705

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0171-493 4106 FAX: 0171-629 6071

RENTALS

QUEEN'S GATE PLACE, SW7 £500 p.w. An elegant 1st floor flat with high ceilings in a period building. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception, kitchen/breakfast room. Unfurnished	MEDWAY STREET, SW1 £325 p.w. A selection of flats in a new development in Victoria. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, reception, kitchen, underground parking. Unfurnished
CENTRAL LONDON: 0171-491 4311	
HALL ROAD, NW8 £650 p.w. A newly refurbished apartment in a well maintained portered block. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception, kitchen. Furnished or Unfurnished	HAMPSTEAD, NW3 £525 p.w. A penthouse flat in a converted house in a sought-after road in Hampstead. 2 beds, 2 baths, reception, kitchen, balcony. Furnished
NORTH LONDON: 0171-722 3336	
DORA ROAD, SW19 £576 p.w. A refurbished period house on 3 floors with a superb drawing room, landscaped garden & parking. 4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, shower room. Furnished/Unfurnished	SOMERSET RD, SW19 From £346 p.w. Two large apartments on the 6th & 10th floors overlooking Centre Court at the All England Tennis Club. 2 beds, 2 baths, kit/b fast rm, balcony, underground parking. Furnished
WIMBLEDON & SURREY: 0181-946 9447	



WILTSHIRE
Nr Chippenham
An exceptional Grade I listed property, being the wing of a fine Baroque mansion. 5 beds, 3 baths, recep hall, 2 receps, kit/b fast rm with Aga, wine cellar, clrm/utility, south facing garden.

Price Guide: £250,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244



WEST SUSSEX
Old Bosham
A listed Queen Anne house in the village centre. 3/4 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, kit, ground fl flat bed, bath, 2 receps, kitchen, courtyard garden, private parking.
JSA: Jackson-Stops & Staff 01243 786316

Price Guide: £300,000

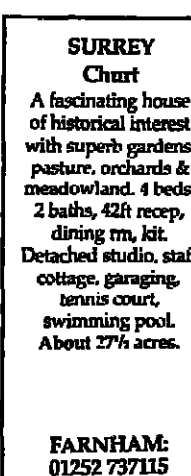
HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106



BUCKS
Botsolph Claydon
A listed village house built about 200 yrs ago with a 1/2 acre garden overlooking countryside. 4 beds, bath, dressing area, 3 receps, playrm, kit/b fast rm, garage. Annex: bed, bath, kitchen/dining rm.

Price Guide: £215,000

OXFORD: 01865 311522



SURREY
Churt
A fascinating house of historical interest with superb gardens, pasture, orchards & meadowland. 4 beds, 2 baths, 42ft recep, dining rm, kit. Detached studio, staff cottage, garaging, tennis court, swimming pool. About 27 1/2 acres.

FARNHAM: 01252 737115

WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

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BOOKS

Something to shout about

Giles Gordon on the writers left out in the cold by reviewers

Ibadan: *The Penkeleles Years: A Memoir 1946-1965* is a chaotic title for a sizzling passionate, arrogant and muddled book. Published not this week but last July, few will have heard of it, let alone read it.

I became interested when one of my favourite publishers, Geoffrey Strachan of Methuen, confided sotto voce over lunch the other day that it had been reviewed by only one national daily, *The Guardian*, and only one weekly, *The Spectator*, as well as, thank heavens, in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. No doubt because of this paucity of coverage, *Ibadan* has sold just over 1,000 copies at hardback. How will the Minerva paperback fare in July?

Perhaps literary editors had difficulties in "assigning" it to reviewers. The first sentence of the author's exceedingly combative foreword reads: "*Ibadan* does not pretend to be anything but fiction, that much-abused genre which attempts to fictionalise facts and events, the proportion of fact to fiction being totally at the discretion of the author."

The subversive use of discretion in a singularly indiscreet book is masterly, the author leading with his pug-nacious chin.

He continues: "My adoption of the genre stops short of the actual invention of facts or events, however, or the deliberate distortion of the history or character of any known figure."

What is going on here? Is the book aspiring to literature — that is to say, more fiction than fact — or is it non-fiction, current affairs, polemic and politics?

Although educated in the university of English life (Leeds University under the gentle Bonamy Dobrée, the Krays and Tom Dribber in, of course, an East End pub with Joan Littlewood, that obnoxious bag-lady of theatrical genius in tow; discovering William Blake; reading scripts for the Royal Court) the author of *Ibadan* is Nigerian.

Wole Soyinka is one of the greatest of 20th-century writers, and in 1986 the first black African to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The book's foreword continues to be bellicose. Soyinka is writing with invigorating passion and anguish about political events in Nigeria, certainly includ-

ing endless genocide. To indulge in fiction is possibly to save his own life, for he has — whether as political activist or reporter to the world of terrible events in his beloved country — spent years in prison, and later in undesired exile.

I am not suggesting that we all have the inclination to read the detailed (the lavish book is nearly 400 pages) accounts of the minutiae of the civil war in Nigeria. I am saying that *Ibadan* has to be more important than most easier books which are reviewed all over the place. It is important, in my view, because Soyinka is a major world writer.

I remember thinking when seeing some of his plays in the 1960s and 70s — *The Lion and the Jewel*; *The Road*; Peter Brooks's NT production of Soyinka's translation of *The Bacchae* of Euripides, starring Sir John Gielgud and a gigantic golden phallus of which Coral Browne famously remarked: "No one we know" — that he was the first contemporary writer to dare to use our language with the swashbuckling richness of the Jacobean dramatists.

Less concerned with subtlety than surtitles, Soyinka, a big man in every way, is a writer out of tune with our pinched, etiolated times. His prose and response to life and literature have more of the gushing pungency of the mango than the insidious squeeze of the sullen lemon.

The publicity and marketing departments of publishing houses are mostly impossibly overworked and what, ultimately, they can do to boost their imprints' wares is minimal.

Hundreds of different titles are published in the UK each week, and in some weeks thousands. There is no way even the most conscientious literary editor can notice more than a few titles on his or her pages although the general gripe, except from the authors and publishers of the noticed books, is that the same titles are reviewed everywhere. This is largely true because the education, tastes and sensibilities of literary editors at any one time are similar, and market forces dictate that certain books be reviewed and thus others not.

● Giles Gordon and the Public Lending Right: see below right

Sugar on the management pill

Stuck in an airport lounge, Russell Twisk bones up effortlessly on the stuff of a thousand executive-conference flip charts

BEYOND Jeffrey Archer and Stephen King there's a section at airport bookstalls where business books are bunched together. This is the land of the quick fix, with titles such as *The First Time Manager*, *Break Out — Life Beyond the Corporation* and *The Immovable Laws of Marketing*. In this crowd Charles Handy brings a little class to the surroundings. His titles flatter the reader, promising an intellectual feel among the feathers as well as ten top tips on how to get on with your boss. In *Gods of Management* he divides the business world into clear domains of four Greek gods. With the help of pictograms he lists their qualities: Zeus represents the clubbable culture, and we are invited to remember him by a

spider's web; Apollo is the god of order and rules, a Greek temple is his symbol; Athena is task-orientated and is shown as a ner; while Dionysus is of the existential culture, and carries no explanation for his painter's palette symbol.

I read this book while stuck in the British Airways lounge at JFK. Outside snow ploughs were making pointless patterns through the blizzard, while inside customers were treated with Zeus-like disdain by BA, who told us nothing at all until a bright spark spotted on a screen that

■ **GODS OF MANAGEMENT** and **THE AGE OF UNREASON** By Charles Handy Arrow Business Books, £6.99 each

all flights had been cancelled. It seemed the perfect place to study Handy's work. His gift is for finding vivid imagery to make even the most dull-witted of us feel cultured. There's nothing overly didactic about him; difficult concepts and language have solutions and vocabulary built in. He prompts and reminds you throughout. Those suffering short-term mem-

ory loss need have no fear, another reprise will be along in a minute. This work is destined to be plagiarised on a thousand flip charts. The definitions feel as though they might well be true, so that lightbulbs of recognition will flash up over the heads of executives: "That's me and my situation". There are plenty of case studies and quotes from other management experts; gurus merrily feed on each other's work and generously give credit (I plug you, you plug me). Dividing the business world into gods is, I guess, as valid as

any other arbitrary cake slicing. But it contains the huge contradictions and sweeping generalisations of horoscopes. It could have done with a good pencil editor to cut out pages of repetition.

In *The Age of Unreason*, Handy's text is change and his belief that it is "often the little things in life which change things most and last the longest". He asserts: "In an age of unreason there can be no certainty." After a while you become inured to these rapid aphorisms. Again, it suffers from the slack editing that haunts so many business books. Taken together, these two titles resemble the snacks available in the BA lounge at JFK — sugary, pleasant, easy to stomach, but no meat.

Drifter dancing to the Texas twist

Lucy Berrington on a fairy tale pretending to be a travel book

THIS is less a conventional travel book, more an unconventional fairy tale, a picture of a hypnotic, mosquito-stabbed summer spent at a beach house on the Gulf of Mexico.

The plot merges history with backwatered present, factual reporting with magic and myth, romance with contemporary squalor. The author's hostess, Mary Alice, a former stripper who started her career dancing for Elvis Presley and ends in Alcoholics Anonymous, is no more a protagonist than Jean Lafitte, privateer and early Texas settler of the 19th century.

The writing is vivid and rhythmic, a gallery of character vignettes reminiscent of *Short Cuts*, last year's Robert Altman movie. Most strikingly, there is no trace of self-importance about Joe Roberts: the stories are told for their own sake rather than to ele-

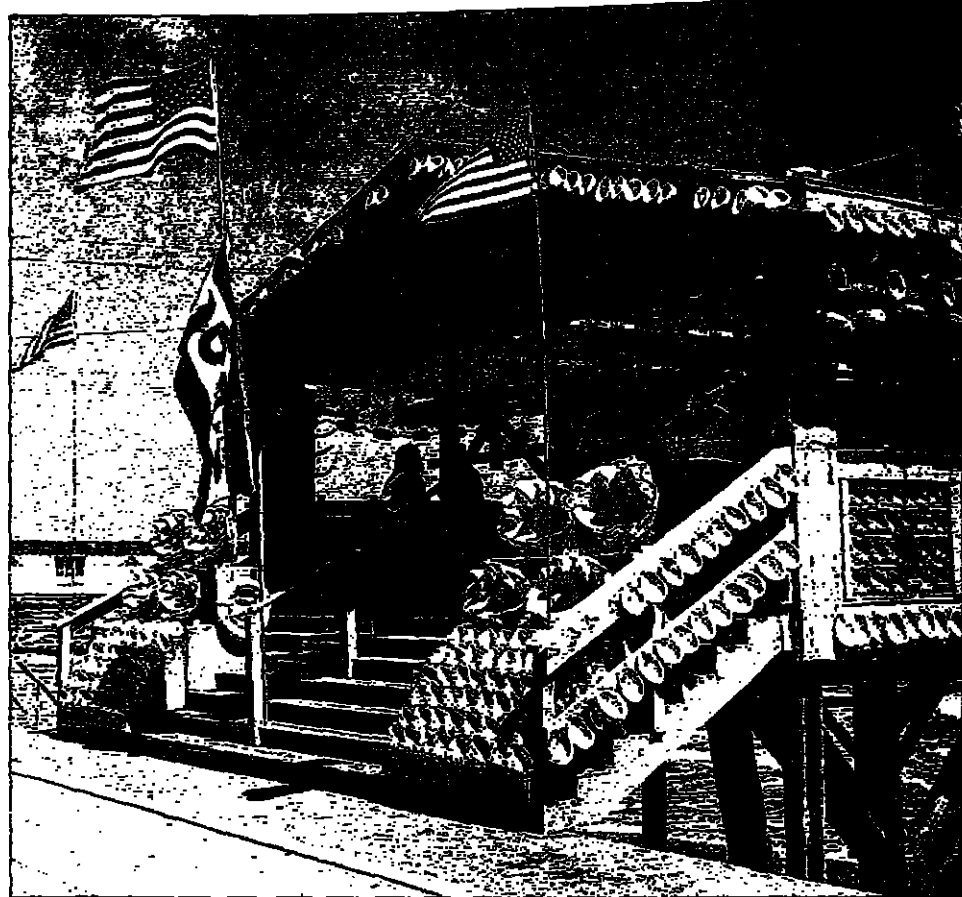
■ **THE HOUSE OF BLUE LIGHTS** By Joe Roberts Bantam, £14.99

vate himself. "A drifter by nature" says the jacket blurb, and his relaxation comes across, but the writer is acutely observant, less concerned with being seen to have a ball than with watching other people jive and twist through dances of their own.

The story of Galveston Bay, the one-time homeland of the Karankawa Indians whose rumoured cannibalism delayed the intrusion of the European colonists, is thor-

oughly researched. But there are no noticeable borders marking handed-down accounts from personal experience, no obligatory spurts of the academic interrupting the local colour. The account of the tropical tempest of 1900 that killed 6,000 people, and of an ill-received visit by Oscar Wilde, are as convincingly crafted as the tales of buried treasure, shipwreck, piracy and neighbourhood demons. The stories and characters are not stereotyped but delivered with understated humour and canny dialogue.

Roberts, one imagines, could not journey anywhere resenting the people or place. Yet deprived of travel, he would surely continue to write. The book — his second, after *Three-Quarters of a Footprint*, a travelogue of southern India — is styled like a novel; we must hope that a novel will come next.



Shell shop on Galveston Bay, where Joe Roberts spent his hypnotic Texan summer

Barking up the wrong tree

THE problem facing those people who want to write books about the sport they love is this: how much is there, really, truly, honestly, to say? There are few sports — cricket maybe, chess, boxing — interesting enough to merit whole books about them. Greyhound racing is not among them.

Nick Hornby, to whose *Fever Pitch* this book has been compared, overcame the mundanities of football by writing about the sociology of the game, about himself, and about masculinity. Laura Thompson occasionally trots down the same route, and offers glimpses of how good this book could have been if

■ **THE DOGS: A Personal History of Greyhound Racing** By Laura Thompson Vintage, £6.99

she had gone further and with greater conviction.

She is slow out of the trap, with an introductory chapter overburdened with statistics amassed to convince the reader of the popularity of greyhound racing. One senses the hand of a sceptical editor or agent here — whoever made the decision was wrong: all this information very nearly prevents you from getting stuck into what Thompson really has to say, which is that dog racing is interesting, rather than merely popular, that it

is not what it was, and that it has had a bad press.

Her comments on the media in general, and its reporting of dog racing in particular, are some of her most acute. "It smoothes and smudges it with irony and familiarity... which take the power away from the creators and put it into the hands of the observers, making them cynical before they have ever been innocent."

That is a spot-on summary of the media's attitude not just to what it considers to be fringe sports, but to pretty much any activity out of the middle-class mainstream. The book could have done with more of that, and less on the

specific triumphs of Mick the Miller and Ballyregan Bob.

It could have done with more of Laura Thompson, too. The book is subtitled "A Personal History of Greyhound Racing" but it is not nearly personal enough. The characters — herself, her parents, the dog men she adores — do not come to life. We learn that she was a "dog child" of a dog man, a wealthy one with a Rolls Royce, and that she rejected this life as a teenager only to return to it in her late twenties to write this book. Ample scope there, I would have thought, for comment on class, roots and snobbery.

ROBERT CRAMPTON



Greyhounds doing trials at Wimbledon before auction

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I have just missed out on a year's PLR earnings. But I blame myself, not the system.

Tuppence lost

EVERY author will agree with Giles Gordon (Books, January 28) that the funding for Public Lending Right should be substantially increased.

His final point is trickier, however. The author must be responsible for registering his own books. PLR's computer can only work with the information provided. It depends on the ISBN with which every new book is issued, but these are sometimes changed between their original listing in the British Library's British National Bibliography and final publication. Some titles never appear and their numbers are re-used. Second editions and reprinted paperbacks are not listed, nor are all cases where two or more contributors are involved. The Registrar and his staff try to help by reminding authors that something they have written may be eligible for PLR, but only the author is certain to know the facts.

I have just missed out on a year's PLR earnings. But I blame myself, not the system.

PHILIP ZIEGLER

● The author is chairman of the Public Lending Right Advisory Committee

Devil's disciples

■ **THE WITCHES' HAMMER** By Jane Stanton Hitchcock Hamish Hamilton, £15.99 (hbk); Penguin, £4.99 (pbk)

could jolly things along.

Otherwise, Hitchcock's second novel makes for a real gripper. Take one leisty heroine out to avenge her father's murder, add a 15th-century misogynistic manual of black

magic (which exists in real life, stir in a sinister brotherhood and sprinkle with a few grisly killings. The witch hunts of medieval times are instantly transported to 20th-century America, with feminists cast as the witches.

Like her heroine Beatrice, Hitchcock is strong on historical knowledge but a bit ropey in the personal relationships department. To call Beatrice's

lithe Hispanic lover a "sleek jungle cat" who has awakened the "wolf" in her, is to assume an Olympian will on the part of the reader not to guffaw.

But despite the oddities, Hitchcock has succeeded in weaving a neat and unpredictable web. There is also an intelligent exploration of the darker side of female sexuality. Ignore the glib feminist ideology and take the book for what it is — a riveting appointment with the devil.

ANJANA AHUJA

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

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1	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£16.99	1
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3	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS David Attenborough (BBC)	£17.99	2
4	THE CRUSADES Terry Jones (BBC)	£17.99	5
5	WRITING HOME Alan Bennett (Faber)	£17.50	3
6	LONG WALK TO FREEDOM Nelson Mandela (Little Brown)	£20	4
7	INSOMNIA Stephen King (Hodder)	£18.99	7
8	GEOFF HAMILTON'S COTTAGE GARDENS Geoff Hamilton (BBC)	£18.99	10
9	BATTLE FLAG Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£9.99	6
10	THE ART BOOK: VISUAL DOCUMENTARY (Phaidon)	£19.99	0
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1	AN IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCE Mary Wesley (Black Swan)	£5.99	1
2	INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE Anne Rice (Warner)	£4.99	6
3	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW Peter Høeg (Flamingo)	£5.99	11
4	OTHER PEOPLE'S MARRIAGES Rosie Thomas (Penguin)	£5.99	3
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6	DECIDER Dick Francis (Pan)	£4.99	9
7	STARGATE Sean Devlin (Signet)	£7.99	2
8	FLAT STOMACH PLAN Rosemary Conley (Arrow)	£7.99	0
9	THE POWER Colin Forbes (Pan)	£4.99	13
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20	LIFE POINTS Peter Cox & Peggy Bruesseau (Bloomsbury)	£4.99	17

Derwent May reviews the critics

5.5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet papers

4.5 Madness beckons: In *An Anthropologist on Mars* (Picador, £15.99), Oliver Sacks tells the stories of seven brain-damaged people. "It is part of the book's charm to convince us that these people are geniuses of a kind," said Hugh Haughton in *The Independent* on Sunday. "For Sacks it is a person's use of their illness, not its removal, that is paramount," wrote Adam Phillips in *The Sunday Times*.

"Brilliantly describes the human spirit as it appears in the most unlikely of people," said Stuart Sutherland in *The Daily Telegraph*, and he recommended the book to arrogant Artificial Intelligence workers "who think their programs are compatible to the human mind." In *The Times*, Nigel Hawkes said that we "wonder here at the variety of human experience". However, there were dissidents. In *The Observer* Andrew Motion regretted that Sacks' "delight in stories overwhelms his curiosity about the emotional component of physical conditions" — and in *The Financial Times* Raymond J. Dolan agreed that there was "very little unmaking of the inner world of the book's subjects". Col cms: 337

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BOOKS

15

Gonzo meets the President

The political circuit's off-beat jester is falling flat, says Guy Walters



John Updike: seduced by Latin American exoticism

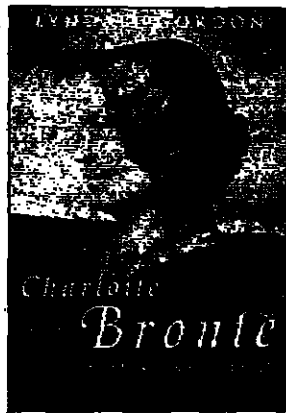
BRAZIL
By John Updike
Penguin, £5.99

In this, his sixteenth novel, Updike succumbs to the seductive exoticism of Latin America and the magical realism of its literary traditions. He tells the tale of a love affair between Tristão, a tough black street boy from the shanty towns of Rio, and Isabel, the blonde, blue-eyed daughter of a wealthy politician, who, after a first meeting on Copacabana beach, pledge themselves to each other eternally.

The unlikely couple set off on an allegorical journey which flirts with almost every cliché of lifestyle and landscape offered by the vast and varied land of Brazil. They sample the hedonism of Rio, the industrial squalor

of São Paulo and the sanitised monumentalism of Brasília. They live the feverish lives of gold prospectors, negotiate the perilous rainforests and undergo magical transformation by a shaman, before finally returning to Rio, their inner selves explored.

The narrative sometimes lapses into travelogue, dense with images which reach self-consciously towards authenticity. As the extravagant series of events jerks forwards, narrative continuity seems to be provided mainly by the explicit sexual encounters of the two lovers. Though Updike still shows flashes of his characteristic virtuosity, he should perhaps return to his native North America where his imagination is so at home.



CHARLOTTE BRONTË: A Passionate Life
By Lyndall Gordon
Vintage, £7.99

The usual view of Charlotte Brontë has been as a figure of pithos in the shadow of tombstones — her mother, four sisters and brother were dead by the time she was 33. Gordon in no way plays down the deprivation and loneliness (the icy regime of the school for daughters of clergy in Lancashire, her rejection by lovers and publishers), but gives us a vital and eloquent portrait of a 19th-century woman who challenged the ossified mores of the time "through the licence of an alternative fictional world".

ADAM'S WISH
By Paul Micon
Black Swan, £5.99

Adam has been a best man six times. Instead of throw-

BLOOD SISTERS: The French Revolution in Women's Memory
By Marilyn Yalom
Panda, £12.99

The French Revolution's promise of liberty, equality, fraternity did not apply to women, who had to wait until 1945 for the vote. Thus, politics are of little interest to most of the 80 memoirists in this fascinating, tragic collage of women's experiences. What concerns these writers, whether aristocrat, bourgeois or peasant, are the epic human dramas being witnessed. The royal governess describes being taken prisoner with her charges, a servant girl gives a moving account of Marie-Antoinette's last hours, and a Vendée peasant turns soldier to avenge her slaughtered family.



LIVING DANGEROUSLY
By Katie Forde
Penguin, £4.99

The heroine, Polly Cameron, is 35 and celibate, having eschewed the sexual maelstrom in favour of a haphazard existence in a small Gloucestershire town. But, as is the way with the comforting familiarity of the Age-saga, the reader is in no doubt that Polly's calm is about to be shattered by a lantern-jawed hero who will turn her life upside down. We are not disappointed: the jaw in question belongs to wine merchant David Locking-Hill. Forde brings a witty touch of Mills & Boon wish-fulfilment to a tale of our times. Ideal bedtime reading.

Contributors: Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Jake Michie, Alison Burns, Hazel Leslie, Nicki Household, Lucy Leithbridge, Giles Coren

"THERE are a lot of ways to practise the art of journalism," writes Hunter S. Thompson, pioneer of "Gonzo" journalism, "and one of them is to use your art like a hammer to destroy the right people — who are almost always your enemies." In *Better Than Sex*, Thompson uses his hammer on Bill Clinton and the 1992 presidential campaign, which he describes as being "the slowest and laziest and least passionate struggle for the White House" he has ever witnessed.

So how does the author of the drug-crazed *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* make sense of it all? *Better Than Sex* veers away from narrative and finds this collection of memoirs, faxes and photo-

BETTER THAN SEX
By Hunter S. Thompson
Doubleday, £15.99

graphs with a "campaign time line" that lists events that Thompson believed to be crucial in the campaign. The inclusion of moments such as Ross Perot's withdrawal seems pertinent, but the fact that on September 7 the "babe-on-liver recipient dies" does not. But then this is the essence of Thompson's style — he will fix almost psychotically on the trivial to reveal the big picture, or at least his view of it.

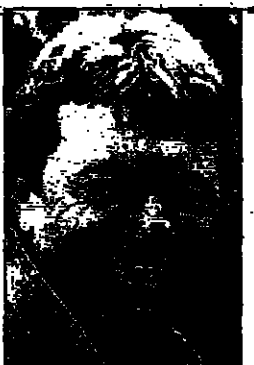
This is captured in his encounter with the gubernatorial Clinton. Thompson describes how he, P.J. O'Rourke and two other members of the *Rolling Stone* editorial board assemble in an Arkansas diner, where they share a drink with Little Rock's most celebrated. Thompson gives Clinton a saxophone read, which Clinton drops on the table "like it was another half-eaten potato scrap... 'No more music,' he said firmly. 'Let's have some food, I'm hungry.'" Clinton's dismissive behaviour makes Thompson feel paranoid. But

Nightmare on escort street

Peter Millar enjoys some horrid thrills in a masterful chiller

THE WORST nightmares start out quietly: a hiccup in the flow of everyday life that suddenly reveals a yawning chasm on the road ahead. There is nothing more frightening than the realisation of how fragile ordinary lives can be in the face of an onslaught of murderous chaos.

When Ruth Lasseter, an attractive, youthfully middle-aged, professional woman having an affair with her boss finds herself in need of cover against his wife's suspicions at the annual dinner dance, she goes to an escort agency. But



Stephen Gallagher: on a US excursion

RED, RED ROBIN
By Stephen Gallagher
Bantam, £9.99

to map out the limits of her grave. Brrrrrr.

Given that his work until now has had a very definite English sense of place — his excellent last book, *Nightmare*, *With Angel* was set around Morecambe Bay — the translation of this story to Pennsylvania and Louisiana is unexpected. But then perhaps, Dennis Nilsen notwithstanding, the serial killer is a particularly American institution.

At the risk of seeming obsessed, however, with the brain drain seduction of British writers by the American market, I cannot refrain from protesting at a good Lancastrian rigidly conforming to such transatlantic speak and political correctness as "muffler", "row houses" and "Native Americans".

These jar, particularly when injected into the thought processes of an Englishwoman, even if she has lived in Pennsylvania for so long that she can no longer consider anywhere else home. I hope Mr Gallagher's fiction is just on an excursion, and will return to these shores presently.

That said, *Red, Red Robin* is a classic of the suspense genre, an obsessive read with a genuinely sinister central character to rival *Psycho*'s Norman Bates, and enough surprises to keep you turning the pages as fast as your stomach will let you.



Hailed by the German film industry as the new Dietrich, Zarah Leander (here in the 1937 film, *La Habanera*) first had to win over Goebbels. From *Tainted Goddesses: Female Film Stars of the Third Reich*, by Cinzia Romani (Spellmount, £12.95)

Slime and the Kennedys

AMERICAN TABLOID
By James Ellroy
Century, £15.99

American Tabloid is a junk portrait of the Kennedy years from the point of view of mobsters, sleazebags, dopeheads, hitmen, procurers, fraudsters, psychopaths, whores and political scum. It is brilliant and appalling.

Admirers of Ellroy's savage griping crime novels know he does not believe in the understatement of language, actions or emotions; not that anyone behaves for other than the basest of motives. What is shocking about *American Tabloid* is that his principles are applied to the real-life

players of the Kennedy era. Ellroy taints them all with his patina of crudity and cynicism. That does not matter too much with the likes of Howard Hughes, J. Edgar Hoover, Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa and Jack Ruby, killer of Lee Harvey Oswald. It is unsettling, though, when Jack and Bobby Kennedy are given the same treatment.

The Kennedy brothers may not have been the pleasant people in America — indeed, we know they weren't — but even their critics would, I hope, wince at the way they

emerge from the Ellroy mangle: thoroughly despicable, foul-mouthed, sex-driven, dirty-dealing, power-obsessed amoral opportunists without a kind thought between them. It is deeply repelling portraiture, yet mesmerising.

The story, such as it is, is one of outmoded political and criminal conspiracy, as seen by a few fictional characters, who include a killer in the pay of Hughes and Hoffa and a

Hoover-financed infiltrator within the Kennedy family. They weave in and out of historical reality — the Bay of Pigs disaster is prominent — spreading slime all around.

Ellroy writes in short explosive sentences. Dialogue is lacinating, to the point and uncouth. Almost everyone is actively nasty. An atmosphere of corruption permeates. I hope, for America's sake, that there is little truth in his tawdry tales. They are unsettling enough as fiction.

MARCEL BERLINS

Stephen Bayley is mesmerised by the latest American lifestyle concept: how to live simply, and shave your legs

Self-help for the terminally hip

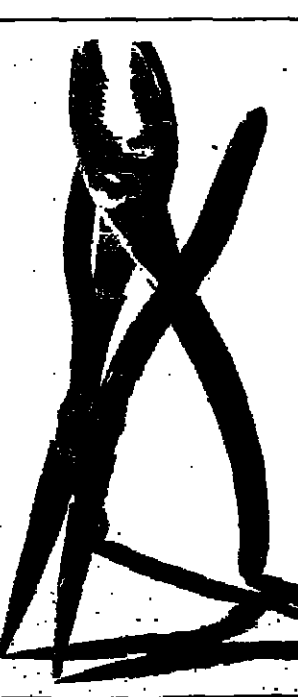
ONE OF the great frustrations of contemporary existence is that it is exceedingly complicated to acquire a simple life, and unreasonably expensive to maintain it. Any fool can surround himself with difficult schedules, mountains of ugly clutter and useless junk; but if you want to live in an environment of Cistercian purity, or simply wish to curl your toes in clean white sand, huge financial and practical resources are required.

Jeff Stone, a former vice-president of Vintage Books and of Alfred A. Knopf, and his business partner, Kim Johnson Gross, a former Eileen Ford model who rose, or maybe sank, to fashion editor of *Esquire*, know the problem. They are marshalling great steaming lumps of computing power to whizz their ascetic selves up the outside lane of the superhighway in the direction of what they believe will be the next new thing, the publishing-marketing elixir which will translate them from being slaves of complexity to masters of The Simple Life. Hence the invention of the *Chic Simple* series.

Chic Simple is not an idea to be patiently developed. It is a "concept" ready to be rolled out. Already, Stone and Gross are threatening to move into own-brand merchandising and own-brand stores.

Simple chic (which is, after all, what we are meant to be talking about) could be described as the current reaction to the vulgar commodity fetishism and style worship of the 1980s, but in fact it is just a dialect version of the same language. Successful self-help has always been the sure-fire, dead-cert way to dominate American bestseller lists. There is an unmistakable aroma of microchip-driven Elbert Hubbard here, but there is something else besides the ghost of the idea that this book is not so very different from those humiliating style guides and magazine features which ten years ago told you where to buy an Alvar Aalto vase.

The *Chic Simple* concept is to provide clear, thoughtful, non-nonsense guides to the practicalities of life, as viewed from a Manhattan loft. For those of us who have always regarded disposal of surplus as more aesthetically exhibi-



So pure, so desirable: chic-simple tools

(and is, to boot, often structurally deceitful and functionally dodgy), the ratings-driven drive for simplicity is not so much self-defeating as utterly nugatory.

For so elegant an idea, it is surprising how the books grate. The authors' devotion to simplicity does not, alas, extend to clarity of graphics, discipline of typography, and purity of thought. Speaking personally, I cannot wait until I am next in San Diego, where, an appendix tells me, the Beauty Clinic Aromatherapy Day Spa (tel 0101 800 826 1392) does a mean manicure. Otherwise, stay-at-home morons will find the advice given about shaving their hairy legs of consummate practical benefit. In summary, we are told:

CHIC SIMPLE: BODY
By Kim Johnson Gross & Jeff Stone
Thames & Hudson, £14.95

Also available:
CHIC SIMPLE: DESK
CHIC SIMPLE: NURSERY
CHIC SIMPLE: TOOLS
Thames & Hudson, £7.95 each

combination of embarrassing how-to ("Nose hairs on men and women often grow longer with age"), wacky New Ageism ("Quirky bodies and older faces are assuming their rightful places among the beautiful"), cringe-inducing pseudo-intellectualism ("from Cyrano to Jimmy Durante...") and politically-corrected sexism. One condition not mentioned in this workshop manual on the body is Terminal Hip.

endemic among Stone and Gross and their (acknowledged) cast of 73 collaborators.

The smaller format *Chic Simple* books are much less ridiculous, although still full of mumbo-jumbo. Thus a desk "is not a desk but the symbol of an intimate, one-on-one relationship in a small space". The infuriating pretentiousness remains, but, being more compact, they somehow offend less.

In fact, the little volume on tools was so successful that, far from inspiring imitation of the series' aboriginal rubric "the more you know, the less you need", they set off in me an unassuageable itch to acquire and consume. I must finish now because my simple life will not be complete until I get a new tack hammer, strap wrench, socket set and 50m of Teflon tape. The *Chic Simple* version of simplicity is cupid-ity in a plain dress.

THURSDAY
Stella Tillyard on the young Israeli: British and Irish fiction.
Plus poetry: the lives of Louis MacNeice and Marina Tsvetayeva; the new Michael Horowitz

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TRAVEL

AMERICA: Wallow in pure luxury from the Napa Valley to San Francisco ...

California's vine romance

Deep furrows ploughing through the soil, curving where the land swells or dips, look like fine tracery from up here. We're in heaven over the Californian wine country, 800ft up, drifting above the morning mist in a hot-air balloon called *Auberge du Soleil*. It's named after the luxury, rustic hotel where, just half an hour ago, we were nestled under down comforters in our terracotta-tiled "chalets", each with its wooden shutters opening onto private decks, a log fire for frosty days, and a view of the Napa Valley's vineyards beyond the slopes of the sculpture-dotted olive groves.

In the New World, you can even tie the marital knot floating in mid-air, with a wicker gondola of guests and a crate of bubbly. The *Mumm Winery* is just around the corner from the *Auberge*. In fact, you're spoilt for choice in this region if méthode champenoise sparkling vineyards tickle your fancy.

It's fun and, far below the balloon, the Napa Valley is already waking. Almost out of earshot, Monday morning traffic, heading for San Francisco, glints along Highway 29. A tractor spraying clouds of chemicals surprises a jack rabbit. "A deer!" exclaims a fellow balloonist, smiling beatifically, if somewhat losing her sense of perspective. Sunshine and a cooling wind; a hushed dragon's-blast of propane; the creak of wicker basket and guy ropes. Existence this high up seems ineffably serene.

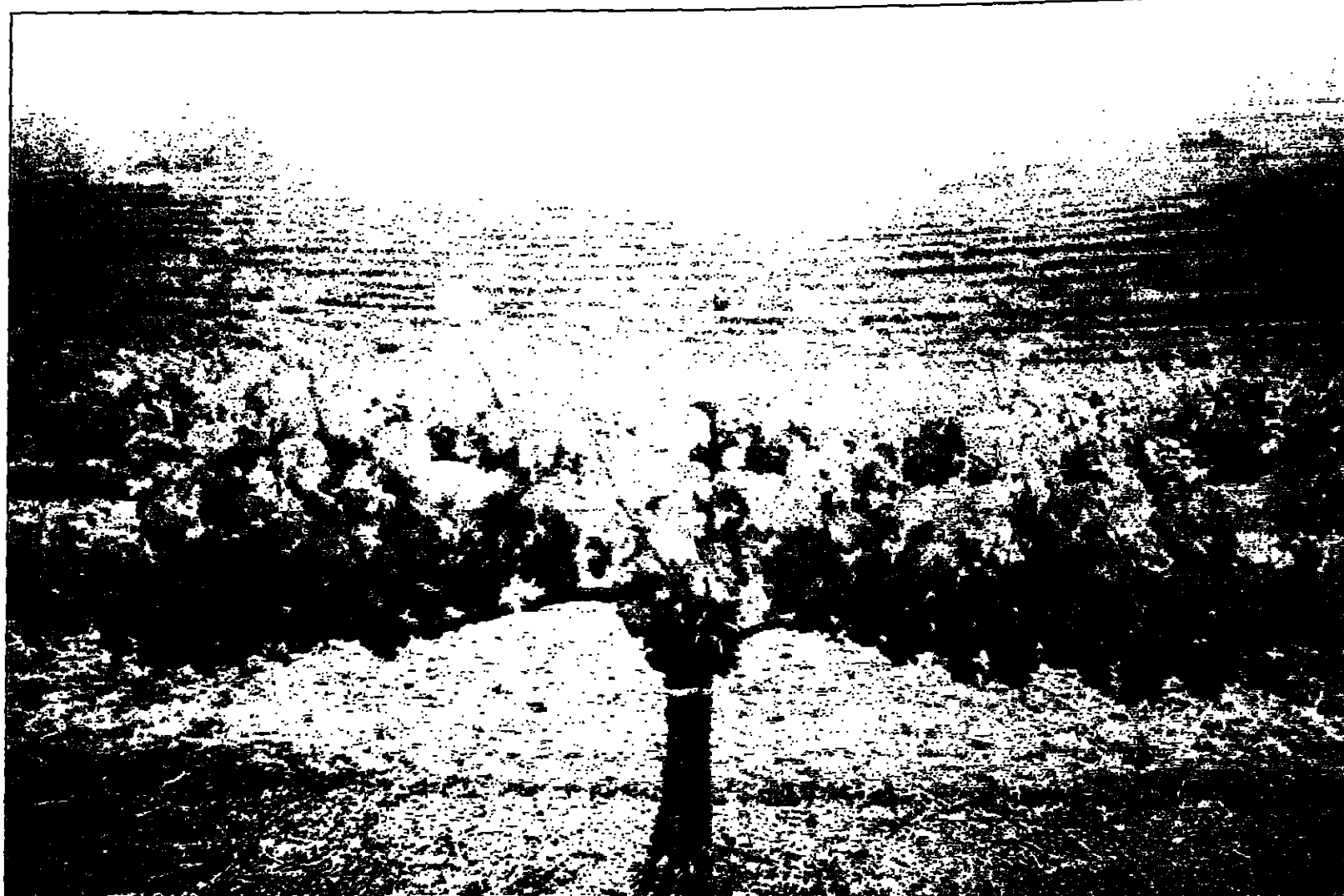
A few hours later, I'm down to earth and up to my ears in a stinking, steaming quagmire. I thought I'd dip into one of the local delicacies — a mud bath. Dr Wilkinson's salon, in the tourist spa town of Calistoga, proves to be the valley's answer to Dante's inferno. Have I really paid money to be sucked down, naked, into the Devil's hot compost?

Volcanic ash, peat, sulphurous mineral water, and whatever the previous bather left behind, clearly aren't my cup of tea. Eying the big shovel against the concrete wall, I have a creeping feeling I might even be relaxing atop some erstwhile customer.

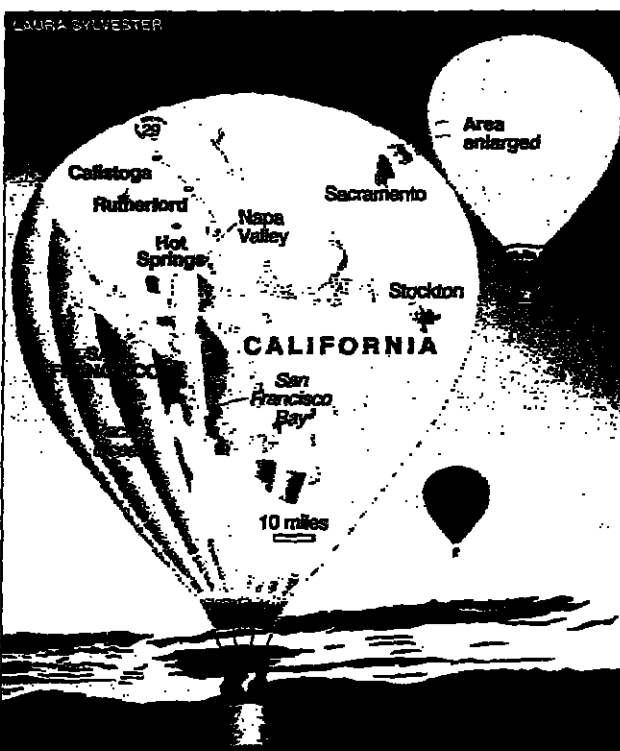
Unfortunately, hysterical laughter only encourages the attendants: they smear my face with blue cream, dump me into a tub of lukewarm water with an old hosepipe (excuse me, a whirlpool bath), squeeze me into the sauna, and finally leave me struggling, weakly, inside a blanket in what appears to be a small detention cell. Health and beauty: it's worth every cent.

More blissful, perhaps, is wine-tasting at the exclusive Hess Collection on Mount Veeder, which offers a heady combination of sipping Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay while admiring a Francis Bacon or a Gilbert and George in Donald Hess's refined pick of modern art.

For the more energetic, there are golf courses and



The Napa Valley in California is renowned for its Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay wines, but less for another local delicacy — a mud bath



Fact file

□ Kate Bassett was a guest of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 222 Sansome Street, San Francisco CA 94104-2792. (0101-415 885 0999). Deluxe rooms from \$275 (£180) a night. Also *Auberge du Soleil*, 180 Rutherford Hill Road, Rutherford, Napa Valley CA 94573 (0101-707 963 1211). Rooms from \$285 (£190) a night.

□ She flew courtesy of British Airways (0345 222111), which has two flights a day to San Francisco. Return fares from £568 Economy to £3,254 Club class.

□ Balloons Above The Valley (0101-707 753 2222) offers all-day flights, including lunch, from \$165 (£110) per person.



Trans-Am building (left)

of Nob Hill and the brothels and opium dens of the Barbary Coast. More recent trends have seen the influx of beatniks to North Beach and hippies to Haight Street, and the city is rightly known as the gay capital of the world.

Today, the Mandarin's safe, pampered haven seems, in spirit, miles away from the seedy strip-joints off Columbus Avenue. But North Beach, like Haight-Ashbury, is civilised. You don't have to be wildly bohemian to browse in City Lights, the famous bookstore that was the home of the Beat generation, nor be able to talk Dada to take time out in the cluttered Vesuvio bar next door. It is well worth visiting these places for a taste of a city almost European in its feel, where the people are surprisingly laid back.

Fisherman's Wharf is the prize tourist trap, packed with expensive seafood restaurants, tacky souvenir shops and lame museums. For a mild thrill, some hang onto the outside of a bell-clanging cable-car, roller-coastering the hills, or experience the Tactile Dome in the extraordinary hands-on Exploratorium Science Museum in the Marina district.

Equally, you could spend whole days being dazzled by designer goods in the city's prestigious stores, or stroll through the dozen distinct neighbourhoods, or even head for the forests, beaches and cliffs of Marin County.

As Dylan Thomas ecstatically scribbled home: "Oh, San Francisco! It is and has everything."

KATE BASSETT

stables or, back at the *Auberge*, tennis courts, the outdoor pool, and aromatherapy. I decide to ride my hotel-provided bike into the baking hills. Raw, red earth and hewn rock line the twisting road, a battered pick-up spluttering by, as I head for the tinder-dry grasses and blue, reflective waters of Lake Hennessy. As I freewheel down Sage Canyon Road, past pines and giant irrigation pipes, breeze-blustered, with the telegraph lines singing above me, I finally feel in touch with the real California.

Two days later, I'm in a bedroom that is practically in space. My expansive 48th-floor suite, with a breathtaking 180 degree panorama of a silvery San Francisco, the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge, is on top of the world, or at least of the multistar Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

The city grid system, bucked by the San Andreas fault, lies below me like a creased and rucked map. The Trans-Am Pyramid, like a termite's space rocket rises out of quaint alleys of fine antique stores, reaching for the stratosphere. Further off, small but proud, on picturesque Telegraph Hill, stands the Coit Tower: a concrete Roman column housing fres-

coes of Great Depression labourers, subversive enough to force its closure during the 1930s dockers' strike. And beyond that, the lighthouse on "the Rock", the lonely island of Alcatraz. If you can stomach the boat-trip, it is well worth visiting the island's penitentiary which, until its closure in 1963, was home to some of America's most notorious criminals, from Al Capone to Machine Gun Kelly and Robert Stroud ("the Bird Man of Alcatraz").

The Mandarin is the pinnacle of prestige and is situated in the financial district of town — perhaps this grand hotel is

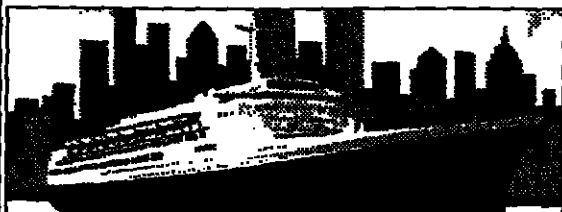
more for businessmen than holidaymakers. At times the hotel's "Asian accent" seems slightly cosmetic and confused — a magnificent marble bathroom is furnished with a mock-bamboo plastic toiletries stand. However, the food in Silks restaurant is excellent and the service impeccable. Piles of clean towels appear whenever you turn your back and the seething sidewalks of China Town and the Italian cafes of Columbus Avenue are only a few minutes away.

The city is full of contrasts. Historically, it has seen both lavish elegance and seamy danger, home to the mansions

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TRAVEL

19

... or follow in Mark Twain's footsteps on a leisurely steamboat cruise along the hypnotic Mississippi

Steaming down Old Man River

NEW York, Los Angeles, Miami and Orlando may be the traditional favourites for Britons heading to America, but a number of lesser-known states are starting to target the UK market too.

Virginia, where mountains bring a temperate summer climate, is a new destination for Britons, and for those looking for a touring holiday many standard hotels offer accommodation at around £40 per night.

North and South Carolina offer both mountains and miles of coastline. North Carolina boasts the Cherokee, the Great Smokey Mountains, ski resorts, state parks and the ultra-long Appalachian Trail marked footpath.

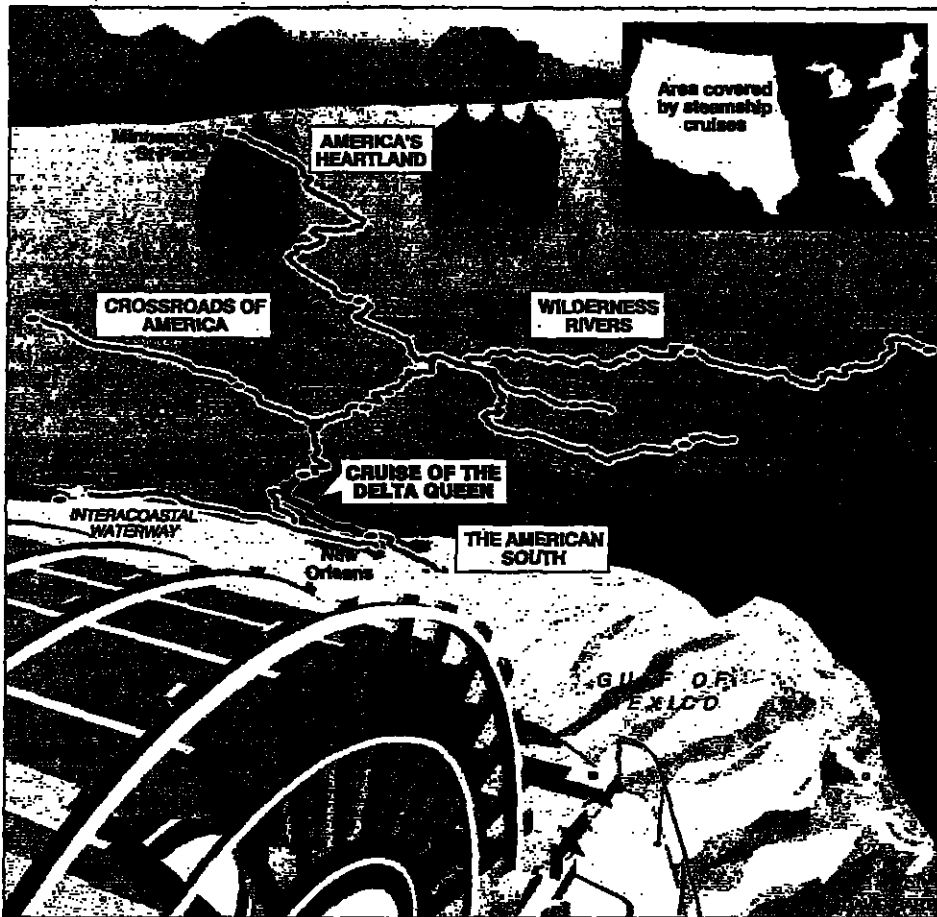
Those who have seen Orlando and Miami and want a change should try the beach resorts of Daytona Beach, and St Petersburg-Clearwater.

Daytona is on the Atlantic coast, and has a motor-racing stadium, theme parks and golf courses, while St Petersburg-Clearwater is on a peninsula on Florida's west coast, between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay.

If skiing is more your style, Trailfinders (0171-937 5400) offers bespoke packages to the Colorado resorts of Vail, Keystone and Breckenridge, with prices from £700 for a week including flights.

River Island Expeditions (0181-810 4525) has put together cattle-driving holidays in Colorado for keen riders, including one seven-night package which requires participants to wear 1800s dress. Prices start from £1,095 per person including flights, and meals are provided on some drives. These holidays are only available in the summer months.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



"One day we'll be able to go 700 miles an hour," Mark Twain predicted more than a century ago, "then we'll want to go seven again."

The sage of the Mississippi has been proved right, to judge by the growing popularity for his favourite mode of travel, steamboating on Old Man River and beyond. For 11 months of the year, two splendid paddle-wheelers, the *Delta Queen* and the *Mississippi Queen*, cruise the vast river system that runs through the heart of America.

The steamboats ply their routes at a leisurely pace, offering passengers a chance to step back in time. The water lies flat, with no noticeable swell even on breezy days.

The river is hypnotic, even on long stretches of wilderness when each bank is an endless forest of cottonwood and willow trees. Its course, as Mark Twain noted, is more crooked than a snake. You are forever scanning the horizon to discover what is around the bend. It could be a small riverfront town, an antebellum planta-

tion mansion or a flight of blue herons skimming the water.

At times, the steamboat shaves the tangled shore — "running the willows" as it is known — but mostly the pilot searches for slack water where the current runs less strongly.

"If you meet a pilot who says he's never run aground, you've just met a liar," says John Davitt, formerly a pilot and now captain of the *Delta Queen*. Samuel Clemens started as a Mississippi pilot and took his pen name from the bowmen who swung lead weights on a line to gauge the river's depth. Their cry for two fathoms was "mark Twain".

Since Mark Twain's day, steamboats have acquired marine radio, depth-sounders and searchlights, but it is still the pilot's memory that keeps the vessels out of trouble. To qualify, Captain Davitt had to complete a detailed drawing of every mile of the river from memory, 20 miles at a time, 1,700 miles in all.

He says that the Mississippi does not usually shift as dramatically as it did in Mark Twain's time. These days, US Army engineers corral the river within levees and embankments but, as last year's flooding proved, the river is

still capable of charting its own wilful progress.

The *Delta Queen* sets sail from New Orleans with the blast of a few notes from her calliope, the traditional steam organ on the aft deck. She is bound for Natchez, Mississippi, three days and 268 miles distant. A National Historic Landmark, she is an authentic sternwheeler, 68 years old, with a 44-ton paddle driven quietly and entirely by steam. From the outside, she looks like an oblong wedding cake. On the inside, she resembles a Victorian bed-and-breakfast with fancy fretwork and stained glass. Her sitting lounge amidships and the forward bar both gleam with polished brass and hardwoods. In her dining room, the curtains are velvet and the napery immaculate. Rocking chairs line the decks. The only items missing from Mark Twain's day are the brass spittoons spaced six feet apart.

Accommodation ranges from the stateroom, once used by Princess Margaret, to more compact cabins, all with shower and lavatory but none with television or telephone. Indeed, the 20th century starts to recede as the *Delta Queen* churns away from her quay



The heyday of the steamboat may be past, but this unhurried form of travel is becoming popular once more

into the soupy water that river folk describe as too thick to drink and too thin to plough.

The 180 passengers and 80 crew settle into the chummy routine of a floating community. Veterans of ocean cruising quickly declare the food to be better than on the QE2. The essence of river fare is Cajun cooking with its spicy mix of peppers, okra and ground saffron root. All of these, plus chunks of crawfish, shrimp and catfish, go into a local bouillabaisse known as gumbo. Turtle soup is pure New Orleans with a rich

tomato base and very small pieces of turtle meat. Crawfish are known on the river as "mud bugs", which does not sound too appetising, but these mini-lobsters are delicious when served en croûte with cream sauce.

As the *Delta Queen* pushes serenely on, Nadine Louviere, an authority on river lore, explains how 19th Century steamboats contributed to the language. Passengers who paid extra to travel on boats with high, fluted funnels that kept the soot off their clothing were known as high-falutin'.

Similarly, anyone who adopted fancy fashions and snubbed old friends was derided as high hat.

The steamboats also brought music and entertainment to the river. The *Delta Queen* carries talented musicians who are faithful to the honky-tonk rhythms of Dixieland and the subtler tempo of rag-time. The sounds of the calliope — pronounced cal-aye-oh-pea — are equally genuine but less entrancing. Audible up to ten miles away, the calliope is an acquired taste, like bagpipes, and is

played only sparingly.

After 40 hours on the river, the *Delta Queen* pulls into Natchez, now a quaint echo of its heyday as a cotton port. She moors alongside her bigger sister, the *Mississippi Queen*, which boasts the same elegant brass and ironwork, but is more of a floating Hilton, with a gym, cinema, beauty salon, sundeck, pool and a lift to serve its seven decks. Perhaps she is the fulfilment of Mark Twain's dream of a steamboat of unrivalled luxury.

IAN BRODIE

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Fact file: steamboat cruises

□ The author travelled as a guest of the Delta Queen Steamboat Co., which offers cruises ranging from three to 16 nights on the *Delta Queen*, *Mississippi Queen* and (from June) the palatial new *American Queen*. Fares range from \$163 (about £105) to \$646 (about £425) per night, per person, depending on cabin category. Rates are based on double occupancy and include all on-board meals and entertainment.

□ Boats can be boarded in New Orleans, Memphis, St Louis, St Paul, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Nashville, Chattanooga and Little Rock, all of

which can be reached by British Airways (0181-897 4000) with through service on USAir.

□ For more information about steamboat holiday packages, write to the Delta Queen Steamboat Co., Dept PY95, 30 Robin Street, Wharf, New Orleans, LA 70130-1890, USA, (0101 504 586 063).

□ Information and reservations are also available from the company's British sales agent: Fred Olsen Travel, White House Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 5LL (01473 292200).

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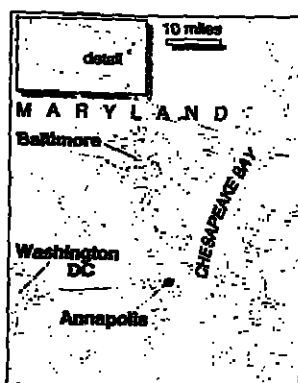
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AMERICA: Maryland is serene, charming, and home to heavenly crab patties, says **Tunku Varadarajan**

The day a crab caught me

I thought I'd gone mad. For days after my return from Maryland I could think of nothing else but crabs. I was short with my girlfriend, wayward at work, forgot appointments to meet for squash, neglected to shave. The crab which had cast this spell over me was the Maryland Blue, a scrumptious little creature which the locals love as dearly as they do their own mothers. The kitchens of this state are shrines to crabs. When they are hard-shelled you steam them — then tear them apart by hand and crab-mallet; when they are soft-shelled you fry them. And no true Marylander will forget to smother his plate with Old Bay Seasoning, so tangy that it almost makes the cooked crabs "jump off the platter."

The apogee, however, is the



Chesapeake Bay. I can think of few other places in America which are as gentle and relaxing, as safe and reassuring, as Maryland. There is no metropolitan menace, no no-go areas, little urban decay. Baltimore, the state's largest city, is an example of civic regeneration on an almost old-fashioned scale. Where there was once depression and decline — it had gone the way of most port cities after the war — there is now a buzz of self-esteem and humour. The city has undergone the most remarkable transformation in the recent history of urban America. If only Hull were like this, or Portsmouth.

crab cake: soft, moulded patties of spiced crab meat, bound together with egg, and fried gently in butter till golden.

Of course there is more to Maryland than crabs; and if snobs from Washington (big brother next door) say otherwise, tell them to jump into the

more erratic street magicians. There is food everywhere, and much munching on hot dogs, pretzels, doughnuts and other kinds of edible Americana.

The National Aquarium, a giant blue whale of a place, is at the harbour's edge, packed with children who are as wide-

eyed as they are voluble. It is an arresting place in which time passes at the speed of a cruising dolphin: I spent four hours there, having gone in expecting to get bored after just a few minutes of brightly coloured fish in tanks. A short hop away by water taxi is Fells

Point, the centre of Baltimore's ship-building industry in the last century, but now best-known for having more bars per square foot than anywhere else in America (and some of them offer prizes to anyone who can challenge that successfully).

No visit to Baltimore can be described as complete, however, without a pilgrimage to the Babe Ruth Museum. My guide — an old black man with crumpled face and accent — described this legendary baseball player as "one of the ten most important men that ever lived in America". Few in Baltimore, at least, would disagree with that.

The librarian of the Peabody Library certainly did not, as he showed me to the desk which John Dos Passos had once used. So as not to disappoint him, I ran my fingers reverentially along its smooth edges, before returning my attention to the most handsome public room in the city.

If Baltimore is a city renewed, Annapolis, the state capital, is a town in a pretty time-warped of its own making. It boasts a rich concentration of 18th-century architecture and — I promise this — not a single ugly building anywhere. *National Geographic* rightly devoted a photo essay to its picture postcard charms a few years ago. The town is prosperous (a number of out-of-staters have second homes here, on the Chesapeake Bay), the harbour is studded with

Civic pride is much in evidence at Baltimore's regenerated harbour

How to get there

□ The author was a guest of Maryland Tourism in the UK. Spinal Barn, Main Street, Great Bourn, Oxfordshire, OX7 1Q7 (01295 750789) and British Airways.

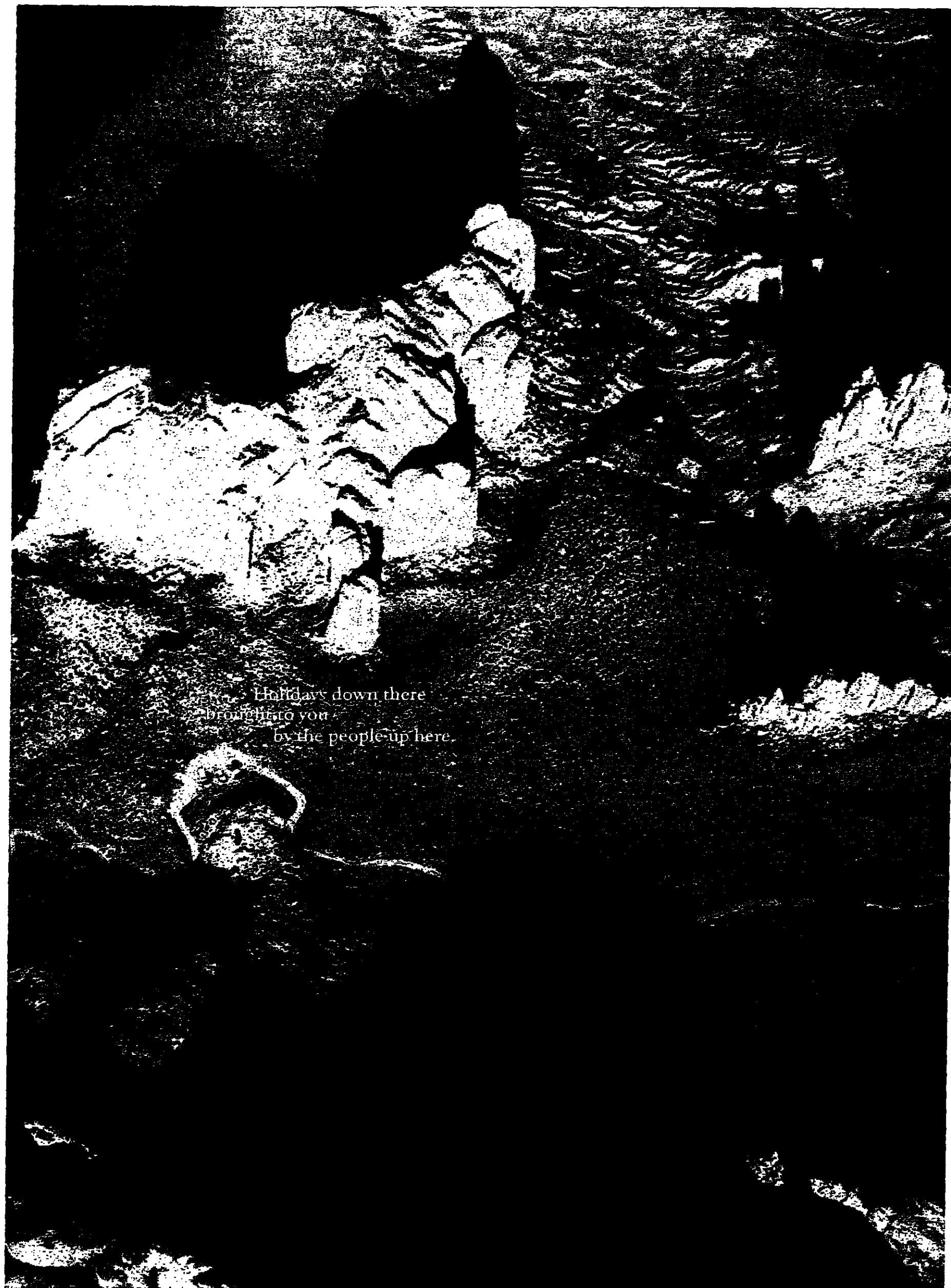
□ British Airways (081-8774000). Apex return Gatwick-Baltimore costs £278 (midweek travel, up to March 31).

□ The Latham Hotel (010 1430 727 7101) in Baltimore costs £90-£120 a night room only; Loew's Annapolis Hotel (010 1410 263 7777) is £90-£105, rooms only but breakfast included with most expensive room.

sailboats, and the bay's expanse is a sailor's dream. I went out one day on to choppy waters, in the safe hands of a captain pickled in brine and whisky. An hour later, buffeted a bit by the wind, we drank cold beer and chomped — inevitably — on crab sandwiches.

Since Annapolis is home to the US Naval Academy, it is home also to thousands of fresh-faced, tight-trousered cadets. The town loves them, and cherishes its place in naval history. In fact, it cherishes history of all types: an age gone by was brought to life for me by a buxom-bodied middle-aged guide, dressed and acting as a "good wife" from the 1780s. Bonnet on head, basket in hand, she drew not a glance from the locals as she led me from street to handsome street, describing affairs in German-accented English. She was, in fact, German, but so too were many of Maryland's early settlers.

"We came here only a few years ago from Bavaria," she said as part of her pretend-role as living historian. "I miss the beer, of course, but the crabs here..."



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NICE PEOPLE. BUT THEIR TABLE MANNERS SHUCKING!

10pm July 8, 1994.
Hemlock, Virginia.

"Enjoy your dinner folks," said the waitress, handing us two sizeable "shuckers" (That's hushers to you.) In the Capital Region good eating means learning the ropes and using your smooches.

Over here you don't pick at your sea food you demolish it. The harder the oyster shell the harder you shuck. And etiquette dictates that you must slurp when you eat it.

It's a far cry from Washington D.C. ultra chic Dinner Cruises. So tomorrow we're off to the lakes around Hungry Mother that are so full of bass you can catch them with your bare hands. I only wonder what local chef, Miss Ada, will give us to eat them with!

Yes, I want to go to the Lakes, Hemlock and my approved Capital Region, USA Travel Guide 1995, P.O. Box 55, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN38 9YU and 01424 69729.

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"A night spent in Maryland after a heavy day's sightseeing"

"Catching a quick paddle down river on the Appomattox Lake in Richmond, Virginia"

"Washington D.C. football players in the afternoon, strolling in the evening"

"A night spent in Maryland after a heavy day's sightseeing"

"Catching a quick paddle down river on the Appomattox Lake in Richmond, Virginia"

"Washington D.C. football players in the afternoon, strolling in the evening"

"A night spent in Maryland after a heavy day's sightseeing"

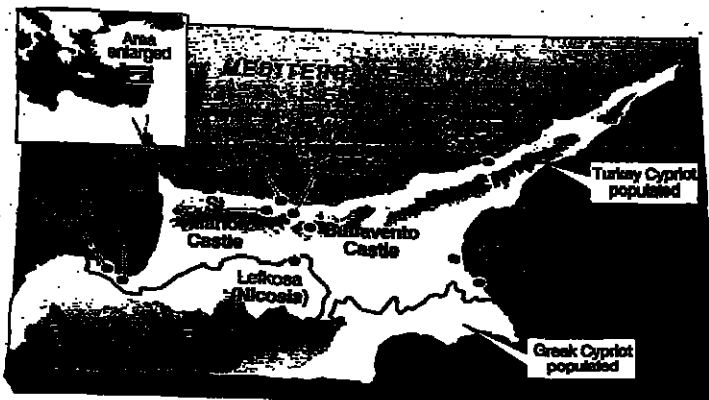
"Catching a quick paddle down river on the Appomattox Lake in Richmond, Virginia"

TRAVEL

21

NORTHERN CYPRUS: Its colourful, shimmering beauty remains undiminished by political upheavals

The other side of Cleopatra's isle



Pale hillsides plunge down to the harbour at Kyrenia. The sandstone Venetian fortress there displays the hull of a ship which sank around 300BC

It's easy to conjure a troubled past standing on the dizzy parapets of St Hilarion castle, cut into a 2,200ft craggy mountain spine in northern Cyprus. The rampart view is awesome: pale hillsides shimmer away vertically through silvery olive groves to Kyrenia's Venetian harbour fortress and a sea of deepest turquoise blue. The silence is broken only by live shot from the Turkish military practice ground below.

Originally St Hilarion — named after the eponymous hermit-saint — formed part of a defensive chain protecting this much fought-over island. Flares from Kantara and Buftavento castles were relayed via St Hilarion to inland Nicosia. The Byzantine structure was fortified and extended by the Lusignans then later dismantled by the Venetians who could not afford its upkeep. But the ruins are substantial and well worth the heady climb.

It's the sort of adventure castle straight from a Famous Five story. But I'm not sure what Enid Blyton's gang would have made of the military zone ("No photographs", "No stopping") through which you drive to reach the castle. Would the United Nations soldier (from Manchester) have waved them sternly on as he did us? And what would they have made of the macho military monuments erected by the Turks throughout the island's northern part after the 1974 invasion.

If you visit the medieval walled cities of Lefkosa (the Turkish name for Nicosia) and Gazimagusa (Famagusta) you cannot be in any doubt that the country is a political question mark. In Gazimagusa I encountered a military parade singing gung-ho marching songs and peered across barbed wire

barricades at a ghost-town suburb evacuated by Greek Cypriots 20 years ago.

The divided city of Lefkosa has an uneasy atmosphere with its barbed-wire and oil-can United Nations "Green Line" and bored-looking soldiers queuing at automatic banks. Even country roads are punctuated by sentry boxes, although soldiers are generally confined to barracks and do not intrude into more touristy spots.

That said, it's possible to encounter none of these sights while enjoying the considerable plus points of northern Cyprus.

After all, if a country doesn't officially exist neither does it attract mass tourism. There are no high-rise hotels and the beaches are enticingly empty. There is no industry (oranges are the main export via Israel), little pollution and no major tourist developments.

Few visitors climb the Crusader castles or wander around Soli's Roman mosaics and restored amphitheatre. You can stroll through the ancient remains (impressive gymnasium and public baths) of the pre-Christian city of Salamis untroubled by coach-loads of rubbernecks, or relish, in splendid isolation, one of the world's bluest sea-views from the peak-top remnants of the Palace of Vouni built around 500BC.

Northern Cyprus is a mezza of cultures and traditions. In a single day you can see a Roman site, a Byzantine castle, a Venetian fortress, an Ottoman minaret, a Gothic cathedral and a British post-box.

Contrasts abound. In Gazimagusa the mezzin calls the faithful to prayer from a former 14th-century French Gothic cathedral. In Lefkosa you can enjoy a massage in the Turkish baths (Buyuk Hamam) or visit St Sophia,

a Gothic cathedral converted to a mosque in 1572 through the addition of minarets and the removal of stone saints (non-human effigies of angels remain).

In Karaman, a delightful mountain village of white-washed villas and tumbling bougainvilleas, you're more likely to hear English than any other tongue. Three-pin 13-amp plugs are still used, pounds sterling are accepted in some places and clapped-out hire cars trundle along the left-hand sides of roads.

I stayed at the Mare Monte, seven miles west of Kyrenia. Built 20 years ago, the two-storey hotel and bungalows are tucked away in scented gardens along an unspoilt coastline backed by mountain ranges. My room was unpretentious yet spacious with a balcony and raki-stocked mini-bar.

A world away from international hotel clones, the Mare Monte oozes faded chic. Swimming from its private cove is a delight (the sea remains bath-warm between April and November). Other activities include tennis, volleyball, windsurfing and massage. Service in the bars and restaurant is prompt and



The 12th-century Gothic abbey at Beyerbeyi (Bellapais)

willing, the food is tasty, and there is live music every night. Eating on the vine-covered terrace is a magical experience. At dinner, moonlight silvers the waves below. At breakfast, sea and sky meet and melt in a gleaming turquoise ball.

A courtesy bus runs regularly to Kyrenia whose horseshoe-shaped harbour is reminiscent of a small English seaside town in the 1950s. Boats bob prow-to-moorings next to cafe tables. Sit in the sunshine and sip a brandy sour or sample local fish at one of many restaur-

rants. Nothing — particularly waiter service — moves fast here. Kyrenia's massive sandstone fortress is worth exploring, if only to see the lovingly restored hull of a ship that sank around 300BC, and is now displayed with part of its original cargo of terracotta wine jars and almonds.

A short drive into the hills behind Kyrenia leads to sleepy Beyerbeyi (Bellapais), famous for its 12th-century Gothic abbey and Lawrence Durrell's affectionate memoir, *Bitter Lemons*. His Tree of Idleness Bar is now a restaurant, one of three in the village, and idling over a mezza or Turkish coffee does come pretty naturally here.

Although cypress trees grow within its ruins, the abbey appears curiously English until the view from its sheer escarpment catches you unawares: orange groves and olive trees, snaking sandy beaches and, beyond these, the huminous sea.

No wonder Anthony gave the island to Cleopatra. Despite its political upheavals, the beauty of northern Cyprus still conquers the hearts of those who visit.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

How to get there

□ The author was a guest of Imperial Tourism, 79 Lewisham High Street, London SE13 5JX (0181-318 9000).

□ Imperial Tourism offers a seven-night holiday at the Mare Monte hotel, including flights from Heathrow to Ercan via Izmir, transfers and half-board accommodation for £328 per person, up to March 24, rising to £450 per person from August 31 to October 15. A two-week holiday during the same periods costs £464 or £685 respectively.

□ Imperial Tourism also offers self-catering accommodation in private villas and apartments. A seven-night holiday at Bird's Nest Cottage, a two-person villa near Kyrenia, including flights, transfers and accommodation costs £287 per person up to March 24, and £375 from July 16 to August 31. A two-week holiday during the same periods costs £346 or £472 respectively.

□ Flights from Heathrow stop for an hour in Izmir (passage goes direct). Ask for a removable page if you do not wish to have your passport stamped by the

northern Cyprus authorities (advisable if you travel regularly to Greece).

□ Car hire: Budget Rent-a-Car, 37 Ercan Avenue, Serpenter Station. Kyrenia has cars, mopeds, bicycles and Suzuki jeeps for hire.

□ Food: eating out is cheap in northern Cyprus — about £5 per head including wine for mezza, main course and Turkish coffee. The meal I most enjoyed was on Sah Ale Gazimagusa's bamboo-covered terrace in Gazimagusa (Morphou). The owner spoke good English and served a memorable selection of food, including mezza, Kefliko (lamb kebabs), sheftalia (smoked sausage) and souvlakia (chicken and lamb kebabs).

Other recommended places include Camin Balik, Kyrenia (special fish mezza, calamari, sheftalia) and the Tree of Idleness, Beyerbeyi (kebabs, sheftalia, souvlakia). Outdoor terrace overlooking abbey and indoor dining area.

□ Information: Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, 28 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN (0171-439 4577).



With hand on heart, there are not many areas which we can truly describe as untouched. However, North Cyprus without doubt fits this description. Although there has been a little development of hotels over the past few years, the whole area still has that wonderful quality of peace and tranquillity that could be found on most Mediterranean islands 30 or 40 years ago.

Spring and Autumn are the ideal seasons for a visit. Warm enough to swim, yet comfortable for exploration. Depending on the size of the party there will be either a Guest Speaker and Tour Manager or one leader who will combine both duties.

We are most fortunate to have discovered the perfect base for our week long stay. The Onar Village and Hotel sits high on a hill just outside Kyrenia. The views are wonderful, with the sea in the foreground and the mountains behind. There is the choice of cottages which are scattered throughout the gardens or hotel rooms with balcony.

The 18 cottages are particularly attractive, consisting of bedroom, sitting room, dining area, small kitchen, bathroom and large patio. After a morning or full day's exploration the large swimming pool and sun deck area are most inviting.

KYRENIA AND BEYOND

AN 8 DAY VISIT TO THE CASTLES, ABBEYS AND ANCIENT SITES OF NORTH CYPRUS

THE ITINERARY

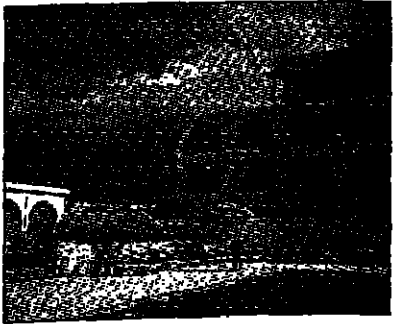
DAY 1 Fly London (Heathrow) to Ercan and drive to Onar Village just outside Kyrenia. Stay for 7 nights.

DAY 2 Drive to Kyrenia (Kyrenia), explore the town on foot visiting the Castle with its unique Shipwreck Museum, the Anglican Church, the Folk Museum and Icon Museum. Lunch at a harbour-side bistro. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at Onar Village.

DAY 3 Drive to 11th century St Hilarion Castle. The view of Kyrenia and the coastal plain is stunning from here. Continue to Lefkosa (Nicosia), explore the city visiting the Girne Gate, Venetian Column, the Buyuk Khan (16th century inn), the Selimye Mosque (formerly St Sophia Cathedral) and if time permits the Mervet Tekke Ethnographical Museum. A late lunch at Kyrenia Kibesi in Gonseli just outside Nicosia. Return to Onar Village.

DAY 4 Drive East to St Barnabas Monastery which contains a collection of icons. In the cloisters admire an outstanding collection of unbroken pottery and glass from 3000BC to 500AD. Then visit the most important ancient site of Salamis, once capital of Cyprus. Lunch at Mr Bedi's restaurant above the sandy beach. Then drive to the old quarter of Gazimagusa (Famagusta) visiting Othello Tower, Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly St Nicholas Cathedral) and the ruins of Venetian Palazzo. After an ice cream or cold beer at Petek's coffee house return to Onar Village.

DAY 5 Drive West to Gucelyurt (Morphou) surrounded by orange groves and market



gardens. Visit the Museum and Monastery of St Mamas. Then drive to the western extreme of North Cyprus to the 5th century BC palace of Vouni. There are breathtaking views of the sea and Troodos mountains. Descend to the ruins of Soli, a Hellenistic and Roman city, famous for its 17 tier stone seated theatre and mosaic floor in the 5th century Basilica. Lunch beside the rocky sea shore at Mardin's Restaurant. Return to Onar Village.

DAY 6 Drive to Kantara Castle, mentioned at the time of Richard Coeur de Lion's short stay in Cyprus on the way to the Crusades in 1191. A fairy tale castle with majestic views of both sides of the Karpas peninsula. Descend the mountain to the fishing village of Bogaz for lunch. Return to Kyrenia passing the Royal Tombs and ruins of ancient Enkomi.

DAY 7 Visit nearby Bellapais Abbey in the village where Lawrence Durrell wrote 'Bitter Lemons'. It is a magnificent 13th century ruin

in a perfect setting. Lunch at Bellapais at the Tree of Idleness or in Kyrenia. Afternoon free for relaxing or shopping. Return to Onar Village. Farewell dinner.

DAY 8 Fly Ercan to London (Heathrow) arriving in the afternoon.

1995 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON

1,8,15,22,29 April; 6,13,20,27 May; 23,30 September; 21,28 October
Easter supplement £29

Twin room £695 Cottage £749
Single supplement £299

Prices subject to surcharge.

Price includes: Return economy air travel from London Heathrow, 7 nights accommodation on full board, 4 full day tours, 2 half day tours, entrance fees, airport transfers, Guest Speaker and Tour Manager.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport tax £5, UK departure tax £5, tips to hotel staff.

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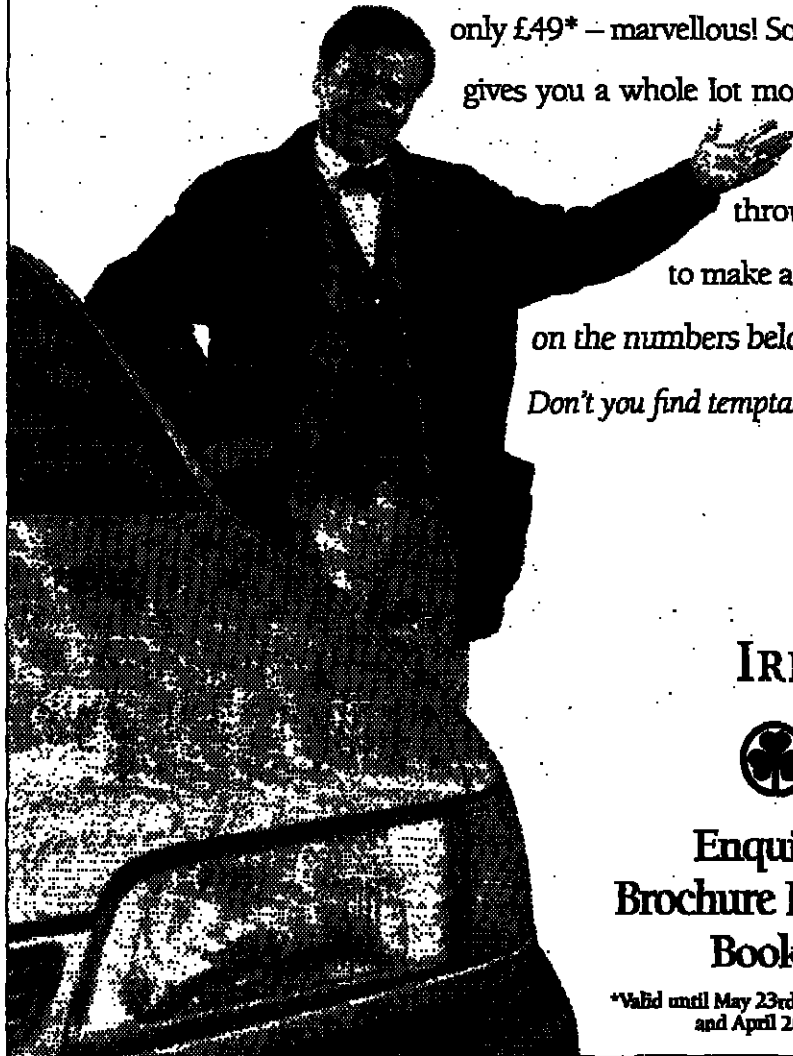
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WEEKEND SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

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TRAVEL

WINTER BREAKS: Five days in the life of a would-be snowboarder; plus a little-known American resort

DAY ONE

The neon headline of the French snowboarding magazine, *Surf Neige*, at the newsagents in Cauterets arouses an irresistible urge: "Initiation - devenez une bête en 5 jours!" ("Become a beast in five days!") I am already anticipating some carving and slashing on the best slopes in the French Pyrenees. George, my sceptical Australian brother-in-law, puts one hand over the "une": "Become a fool in five days!" "It won't take you that long though," he says.

At the age of 16, he has already retired from snowboarding: "I can't afford the chiropractor and physio bills," he says. But my mind is made up - I want to be an unshaven, baggy-trousered, ripping Dionysian boarder, too. The locals are more sympathetic. The girl in the No Limits snowboard shop, a few doors down from the Hotel de Paris, assures me: "It's easy. You'll love it."

Surely my surfing experience will give me an edge when it comes to learning to snowboard - *le surf* as the French call it, surfing on snow. On the other hand, I also bear in mind the tip given to me by an American I ran into in New Zealand: "Lots of padding." Accordingly, before setting out for the cable car, I stuff a cushion down my salopettes and shove on a pair of Rispout knee-guards, originally designed to enable rollerbladers to slide down the street on their knees. With armour ballooning out from front and rear, I have no fear of falling. It is standing up again that proves to be the problem.

As George goes whizzing by, he complains that my cursing is loud enough to set off an avalanche. But I make my biggest mistake of the day on the way down again in the cable car. When Sophie, George's 13-year-old sister, ridicules my efforts on the board, I bet her I will be shooting past her and her miserable skis by the end of the week. "How much?" she asks, in her over-literal way. I haggle her down from \$100 (£65) to Fr100 (£12) since she insists that "the end of the week" is Saturday - a mere three days away.

DAY TWO

My learning curve goes through a major dip as I head off on my own for the first time and encounter one of the more formidable difficulties faced by the would-be snowboarder: how the hell to get the damn thing on when there is no one to help. If you can't touch your toes, forget it. The second major difficulty is: how to get it off again. There are no automatic release bindings. Once on, you're locked into it, like a

Warning: beast on board



"The snowboard is the ultimate powder vehicle. With only one edge to worry about there is no danger of diverging skis. However, there is no such thing as a straight line either"

Fact file

- Travel: Stansted to Lourdes, via Paris. Air UK (0345 666777) £180 return. Taxi to Cauterets costs around Fr300 (£37).
- Accommodation: comfortable two-star Hotel de Paris, Place du Maréchal Foch, 65110 Cauterets. (010 33 6292 5385). Fr280-310 (£35-£40) per double room per night (high season); Fr220-240 (£27-£30) low season.
- Hiring equipment: No Limits, 8 rue de Verdun (010 33 6292 6448).

your weight on the front foot," he preaches. "Swing your shoulders more." "Great! Now I can do the 'frontside' turn (which is, in effect, a right turn); but I can only pull off a 'backside' (i.e. left) on my backside. As long as I can figure out a way of turning right all the way down the mountain, I am odds-on for the great board vs skis showdown. Eric suggests that, Cauterets being the elegant old spa town that it is, I should ease the pain with a visit to one of the thermal baths.

DAY THREE

My second lesson comes from Gerard, renowned as the main man on snowboarding. My troubles are over. "You need to put more weight on the back foot," he advises. "Don't swing your shoulders so much." "Great! Now at last I have conquered the backside turn. But oh-oh: my frontside

has gone out of the window. Now I'll have to turn left all the way down. I try to weasel out of the race and offer Sophie the Fr100 straight out. She refuses: "You have to suffer the humiliation, too."

DAY FOUR

The day of the race. I turn up early to inspect the course and conceive a secret strategy for victory. To hell with turns - I'll just head straight down.

We are about two seconds out of the gate when I realise, with horror, that there is no such thing as a straight line on a snowboard: you're always on one edge, at an angle to the rest of the universe, and

therefore almost certain to collide with some part of it. The rout is complete when I make mincemeat of a five-year-old at the bottom. I make my biggest mistake of the whole week when Sophie

and George are stuffing snow down my salopettes and I blurt out: "OK - double or quits! Same time, same place tomorrow."

DAY FIVE

The day of truth - am I beast or fool? After a night-long blizzard, there are tons of powder everywhere and even the piste is off-piste. The snowboard is the ultimate powder vehicle: with only one edge to worry about there is no danger of diverging skis. As George helps to excavate me from the frozen depths of a ten-foot drift, he comments that the only beast I come close to is a Palaeolithic hairy mammoth. I miss my date for the second race and Sophie, ruthless as only a 13-year-old can be, bills me for Fr200 (£25). George says: "Why don't you go back to skiing?" My body is almost intact, but I don't think my insurance - even with the double winter sports premium - covers a shattered ego.

Just as I am thinking of jacking it all in, I am saved and redeemed by a genuine guru - Vincent, from the Pizzeria Giovanni in town, born and bred to be not just a dab-hand with pasta and pizzas but an extreme skier and ace *surfer* on both sea and snow to boot. He leads me up to the highest point and teaches me two essential principles:

1. Bend your legs and tuck your back leg in behind your front.

2. Keep your right arm out in front, don't trail it behind you like an anchor.

After that, well, I won't say it is all downhill, but when I get to the bottom and join up with my four-year-old son, who has just emerged, bemuddled for excellence, from ski school, he is full of praise: "That's it, Daddy! Now you're getting the hang of snowboarding."

ANDY MARTIN

Board Stupid: Vision, page 3

Even the snowfall is mammoth

It was November 25, the day after Thanksgiving, and the folks who run Mammoth Mountain ski area had a welcome problem: too much snow.

A wild Pacific storm had rolled in from the Aleutians and sat stubbornly on the lonely eastern flank of the Sierra Nevada, where the smell of bad eggs still bubbles from volcanic fumaroles, and ski burns say things like "Awesome, dude," and "Oh man, did you dig that air?"

Having opened for business on October 8, ten weeks before the first snows reach the Alps, Mammoth is on course for a record nine-month winter season: skiers should still be on the slopes on July 4.

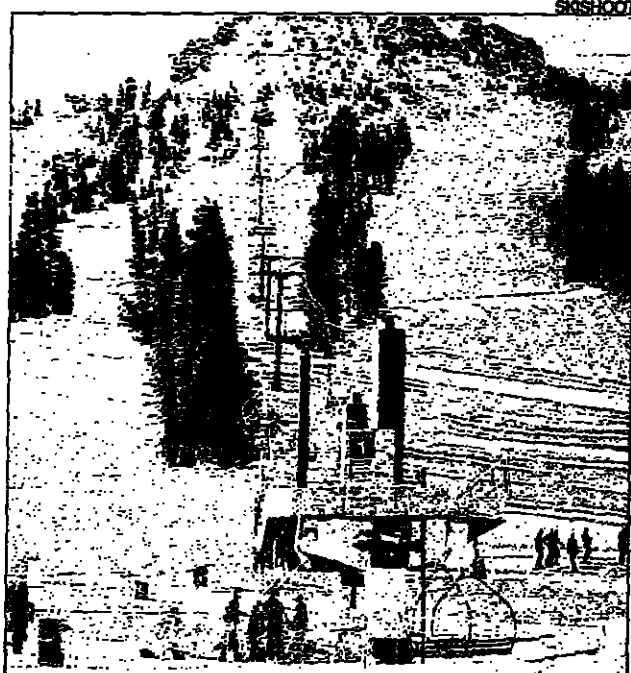
Two hours' drive from Death Valley, this may seem odd. One person who is not surprised, however, is Dave McCoy, the 79-year-old hydrologist who set up a primitive drag lift in the

late 1940s after years spent roaming the Sierras taking snow depth readings for the local water board.

The 11,000ft mountain he later named Mammoth - a marketing ploy based on its size - consistently scored the highest reading. The result, 45 years on, is one of America's biggest and, outside California, least-known ski resorts.

Not everything about it is ideal for Britons. It has been said that the imaginatively named Warming Hut 2, at the foot of the choicest intermediate slopes, has the ambience of an oil-rig canteen. And the main village, 15 minutes down the mountain by free shuttle bus, is a ten-hour flight from London, followed by up to six hours in a hire car or 65 hair-raising minutes in a 19-seat turbo prop from LA's international airport to Mammoth's miniature one.

But once you get there, the



Mammoth Mountain: the name reflects the place

skiing and the arrestingly unalpine setting banishes jetlag. To the north, beyond pine-clad mounds of lava, are the granite peaks of the Yosemite National Park. To the east lie the deserts of Nevada, and un-

der your boards are 3,500 acres of spectacular skiable terrain (Americans seem more wowed by areas than miles of runs) - enough to keep good skiers busy for at least a week. The higher you go, the steeper

Fact file

- The author was a guest of the Mammoth Mountain Inn (001 619 934 2281) and of TW Express (0171 439 0077), which flies twice a day from Los Angeles to Mammoth. A night at the Inn costs from \$105 (£67) B&B for two. The Jagerhof Lodge (001 619 934 6162) charges from \$69 (£44) B&B for two.
- Crystal Holidays (0181 241 4000) and Virgin Holidays (0293 617181) offer seven-night stays including flights. Crystal from £499 per person (four people self catering). Virgin from £499 per person (B&B at the Jagerhof).
- Mammoth Lakes Visitors' Bureau (001 619 934 2712).

it gets. Down by the Warming Hut you "cruise" on "corduroy" (wide and cushy groomed runs), pinching yourself at the surreal friendliness of the lift attendants. But up on California's jagged backbone, 20 minutes by lifts for which queues are virtually unknown, the runs have names like Avalanche Chute and Hangman's Hollow and tend to start with leaps into space. Pack a hip flask and insurance.

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Thomas Cook

Answers from page 27

SNAREL
(b) To steal, to appropriate, to grab, slang and dialect, now chiefly Australian, perhaps a variant of *snaffle* or *snaffle*. "They're booming the notion of a new township and snaffling all the land within a mile of it."

STUDIOLO
(b) A private study hung with paintings, from the Italian diminutive *studio*, literally a small study. "She [sc. Isabella d'Este] heard that the

WORD WATCH

decorations ordered for her studiolo at Mantua were not progressing, for Luca Lionbini, the painter, was a dawdler."

UROBOROS
(a) The symbol, usually in the form of a circle, of a snake (or dragon) eating its tail. From the Greek for *ouro* tail + *boros* devouring. "The ouroboros, the snake with his tail in his mouth, is the prototype

of the vicious circle. The Endless Snake depicts an ouroboros who has become one with himself. It has fallen into the mathematical sign for infinity."

WISSENSCHAFT
(a) The systematic pursuit of knowledge, learning, scholarship, science, from the German: *Wissenschaft*, a theory or philosophy of knowledge (with reference to the work of I. G. Fichte, author of *Grundgesetze der gesamten Wissenschaftslehre*, 1794).

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TRAVEL

23

CORNWALL: Jack Crossley visits an hotel geared to visitors who pack their waterproofs and hiking boots



The seascape views from Fowey Hall must be among the best in the world

An hotel made for walkers

No en-suite rooms. No TVs, radios or telephones. No mini-bars or room service. No smoking in the dining room or bedrooms. Dinner served at 7pm — prompt. Rice pudding every evening. Pilchard and tomato sandwiches on the packed lunch menu. Bedtime tea at 10pm.

Not your idea of an ideal break? Yet it all spells heaven for the fans of Fowey Hall, a magnificent Cornish mansion commanding seascape views among the best in the world.

Many West country hotels would like to command the same occupancy rate enjoyed by the Hall (100 per cent during parts of last summer).

It is an elegant pile indulgently built by a former Lord

Mayor of London, Charles Hanson, in the 1890s. It stands in four and a half acres overlooking quintessential Cornish scenery: the Fowey estuary — busy with fishing boats, quaint ferries, smart yachts, and incongruously large china-clay cargo ships.

Salmon, trout and sea bass nose their way in from the sea. Daphne du Maurier lived on the banks of the river here. The rocks which inspired her to write the story which in turn inspired Hitchcock to make *The Birds* still nest raucously in the grounds of the Hall.

Seagulls abandon the cliffs for the greater comfort of being non-paying guests, and compete noisily with the rooks. They are forgiven for this by those locals who still enjoy gull-egg omelettes.

Phil Beaver manages the

Hall for the Countrywide guest house group, and says: "We cater for walkers, bird watchers, country lovers. Although the hall itself was built to the highest luxury standards, our guests are not seeking four-star hotel treatment. There is a television set in the library, but it goes for days without being switched on."

"It was a policy decision not to have en-suite rooms. Other houses in the group have added them — and lost customers to us. The guests like greeting each other in the corridors on the way to the bathroom, chatting about yesterday's walks, discussing today's programme. There's no alcohol on sale as yet, but people can bring in their own."

I dropped in at 7.05pm on one of the hottest days of the

year and found dinner already being attacked. There was minestrone soup that was almost a casserole. Prawn cocktail was the other starter, but Fowey Hall's walkers — hardly a young person among them — fell upon the minestrone.

Huge Barnsley chops were the next course served with parsnips, potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower and carrots. A salad and a vegetarian meal were the other offerings. Fowey Hall's walkers went for the chops.

There were two sweets, plus fruit and cheese. Home-made sponge with custard and rice pudding. Not or rice pudding because rice pudding is served every day as a second pudding, not as an option. "It's tradition," Mr Beaver says. "I don't know how it started, but

The guests like greeting each other in the corridors on the way to the bathroom, chatting about yesterday's walks

there would be a riot now if it wasn't there."

Breakfast is served at 8.15am and that does not mean breakfast starts at 8.15. It is there and all ready at 8.15, with sturdy people in sensible boots milling around waiting outside the breakfast room.

At precisely 8.15 one of the guests picks up a rubber mallet and strikes the breakfast gong. People up to the age of 80, facing a full day's cliff

walking, plough into porridge, eggs, bacon, tomato, sausages, black pudding.

"All very English," Mr Beaver says, proudly.

Before breakfast the guests had made their packed lunch choices from a list on the wall: meat sandwich; veg spread sandwich; pilchard and tomato sandwich; tomato sandwich; Blue Riband cheese sandwich; sausage roll; cheese and onion crisps; biscuits.

yoghurt; chicken nuggets; cake; apple. "Please tick six items — except Saturdays and Sundays when it is five items as we provide afternoon tea. Please note all our sandwiches are made from brown bread."

Although Douglas Hurd once said that his vigilant Government would not have the European Union poking its nose into the "nooks and crannies" of the English way of life there is a sad tale to report.

Here, in the independently spirited county of Cornwall, Brussels has moved in to crush part of a way of life which none of those taking part recognise as being the least bit eccentric.

These doughy souls remember the old bedtime tea ceremony. They would be gathered in the library — with

the television firmly switched off. At an unappointed hour (but everybody knew when that hour was) those whose turn it was would go into the kitchen to make tea. There was no appointed list to say whose turn it was, but everybody knew whose turn it was. And whose turn it was to wash up afterwards.

All gone now, this ceremony. Brussels will not have enthusiasts enjoying themselves in the kitchen without food hygiene qualifications.

What happens now is that a Fowey Hall host or hostess has to be on duty to serve the bedtime tea.

The fun has been Brusselsed out of the tea ceremony, but no Eurocrat has yet found a way of preventing happy wanderers greeting each other on the way to morning ablutions.

Fact file

□ Fowey Hall, Hanson Drive, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1ET.

□ Getting there: By car — three miles after Lostwithiel join the B3269 to Fowey. From St Austell take the A390, then A3082 through Par to Fowey.

□ Nearest railway station — Par, three miles away.

Taxis — Contact Mr C. A. Barclay (01726 833385).

□ Accommodation: One week full board accommodation costs £209-£239 per person, depending on the time of year.

□ Walking tours, £5 per day. Themed walks and special interest holidays available.

□ Reservations for Fowey Hall holidays through Countrywide Holidays, Birch Heyes, Cromwell Range, Manchester, M14 6HU (0161 224 2855). For short-notice bookings contact Fowey Hall direct: 01726 833104.

A walker planning his route outside Fowey Hall. The hotel has kept the individuality that endears it to guests

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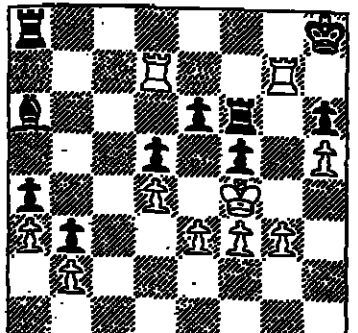
GAMES

27

by Raymond Keene

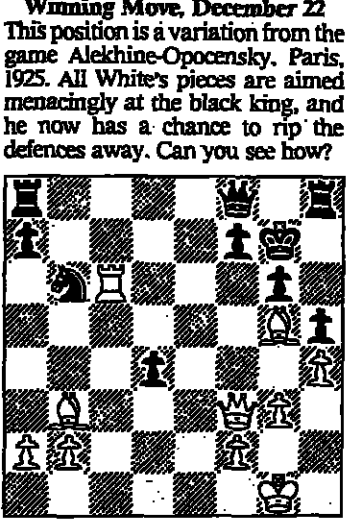
Two Winning Moves from the games of Alexander Alekhine stimulated an immense postbag.

Winning Move, December 12 This position is from Alekhine-Yates, London, 1922. White has sacrificed a piece, an unusual occurrence in an endgame. How did he now finish off?



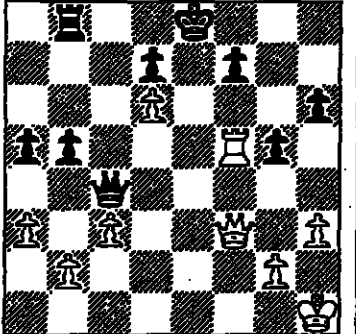
Solution: 1 Ke5! wins a rook, for if Black defends by moving either rook to f8, eg 1... Rf8, then 2 Rh7+ Kg8 3 Rg7 is mate.

Winning Move, December 22 This position is a variation from the game Alekhine-Oppensky, Paris, 1925. All White's pieces are aimed menacingly at the black king, and he now has a chance to rip the defences away. Can you see how?



Solution: According to Alekhine himself, 1 Rg6+ is decisive, eg 1... Kxg6 2 Qb7+ 2 Qb7+ Kxg6 3 Bx7 Rg8 4 Qb7+ Kg7 5 Qb6+ Kh8 6 Bf6+ Rg7 7 Qh6 mate. David Smith of Cleveland points out that 1 Rf7, although less spectacular than the variation proposed by Alekhine, is equally efficient in forcing a win for White, as the f-square now caves in. Richard Beetham of Harrogate prefers to preface this idea with 1 Qf6+ Kh7 and now 2 Rf7. This will also win quickly. Well spotted!

The Sicilian Defence thematic tournament held in Buenos Aires towards the end of last year also produced a crop of fascinating situations. This is hardly surprising if one considers that the double-edged Sicilian is the favourite among grandmasters trying to win with Black against 1 e4. On November 14, I published this Winning Move puzzle from the game Ivanchuk-Ljubovjevic, Buenos Aires, 1994. The white queen and rook are highly active, while the black king lacks a defensive pawn shield. Can you spot White's most effective continuation?



Solution: 1 Rg5! hxe5 2 Qf6 and Black has no defence against the dual threats of Qh8 and Qe7. W.Spanner of Seaford suggests that Black could meet 1 Rg5 with 1... f5 and then 2 Rxf5. Qg8, defending the f8-square. However, after 1 Rg5 f5, White mates quickly with 2 Qh5+, eg 2... Q7 3 Rg8, 2... Kd8 3 Rg8 or 2... Kf8 3 Qh6+, with a very swift mate to follow.

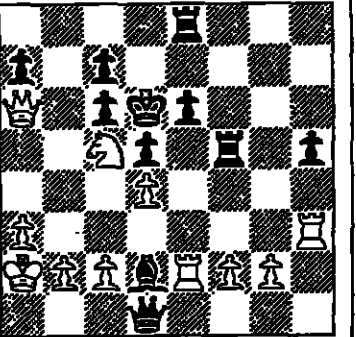
by Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Oester - Machelt, Germany, 1994. The black king has been driven into the middle of the board, but is apparently still quite well protected. How did White show that this is not the case?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bb8

Last week's winners: R Phillips, Warrington, Cheshire; E Kohlmeier, Aldershot, Hants; A Hussain, Brixton, London



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 44, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 15.



"Something to do with safe sex I suppose?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by The Rev T. R. Lee, of Linton-on-Ouse, York

THIS week we look at several tried and tested cheats to increase your gaming pleasure. Apogee Software's excellent "Raptor" is a vertically scrolling shoot-'em-up which revels in plenty of tension and terrific sound effects for one so slight. The more you destroy the more you earn and, ultimately, the more you can upgrade your deadly hardware.

However, affording the best can be a time-consuming process and you have to be dedicated. Instead, you can help yourself to forbidden funds with any Hex editor, such as PC Tools and XFile Gold.

Lead then save the game and quit to DOS. With the Hex editor edit the file CHARD000.FIL (or similar) and tweak the values of lines 24,25 and 26 to read FF FF FF. Reload the game in the normal way, restart the saved game and suddenly everything is affordable. There are several "A-Train" cheats to keep you on track if you're having difficulties making the rail empire run in profit. The really lazy can play the complex and profitable demo scenario by starting the game and saving it immediately. Exit to DOS then reload the game, resuming the saved game.

If you run into trouble during any game and wouldn't blush at an illicit back-hander worth \$1 million, hold down Control and Shift simultaneously, then type: cheatercheatwimp. You can try the cheat more than once, but it may later fail to produce the spondulicks or, at worst, crash you out of the game.

Finally on the subject of cheats, we all know there's nothing like nobbling the goalie to improve one's chances of football success. Gremlin's "Premiere Manager" is so realistic you can also play around with your goalie, powering him up to be practically invincible rather than a butter-fingered klutz.

Once in the game, from the main menu choose the phone and dial 753423. You will see that your trusty keeper changes his name to Gremlin with an enviable skill rating of 99 per cent — the equivalent of Clingfilm your goal mouth to keep out balls. US Gold's "Hurricanes" for the Sega Mega Drive is a novel spin on football games. There isn't a proper pitch in sight, as this is a platform game in which you dribble your ball until booting it at anything which moves. It's simple but addictive.

By Philip Howard

SNAP
a. A false novel
b. To steal
c. A sneak or beggar

STUDIOLO
a. A knuckle-duster
b. A private study
c. An artificial teaching language

UROBOROS
a. A circular snake
b. A wild East wind
c. Vegetarian

WISSENSCHAFT
a. Pursuit of knowledge
b. Shaft of a crossbow bolt
c. Ancestral folklore

Answers on page 22

by Robert Sheehan

THE most exciting hand in the Macellan Pairs tournament is described below. First, look at it from Zia Mahmood's point of view. He was playing with Omar Sharif, on his left was Bob Hamman and on his right Bobby Wolff. This was Zia's hand:

♠AQJ4 ♥J8832 ♦Q7 ♣K3
Zia was East and this was the auction: (South Dealer; Love All)

S	W	N	E
Hamman	Sharif	Wolff	Zia
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	5♦	?

(1) "Fourth-suit forcing", asking for more information.

Hamman's bidding had shown that he had a hand of 12-16 points with at least ten cards in the minor suits. It seemed reasonable for Zia to double. That would ask for an "unusual" lead, in this case clearly dummy's first suit. For example, if North-South's major suits were:

♠K10xx	♥AK
♦xxx	♣K

the declarer could get rid of one losing spade on dummy's ace of hearts. In other layouts it might have been possible for the declarer to pitch spades from dummy on his clubs. One thing was certain — a spade lead would give the defence their best chance of beating the contract.

So Zia doubled Six Diamonds. Hamman promptly redoubled, and it came back to Zia. What should he do now?

Bear in mind the personalities — Hamman, rated number one player in the world, but currently only number two at the half-way stage of the "Player of the Decade" ratings in the U.S.; Zia, leading the Player of the Decade ratings, and about the best at the poker aspects of bridge that I have come across.

Zia decided to pass Six Diamonds Redoubled. Sharif obediently led a spade, and this was Hamman's dummy play problem:

♠K1073	♥A108642
♦A108	♣AK7

Please keep all your news, views and gaming tips coming. You should address your correspondence to: Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax us directly on 0171-729 6791.

TIM WAPSHOTT

tricks — twelve in all. What about the overtrick? You can throw two clubs from dummy on the ace-king of hearts, and then play to set up a long club by ruffing twice in dummy. If you go through the play you will see you have to be careful with entries. If you draw trumps you only have two trumps left in hand, and although you can enter your hand twice with spade ruffs, you actually need three entries — two to ruff out the clubs and one to cash the long club. So the correct sequence of play is: ruff the spade, play a diamond to the ace and cash the ace of clubs. It doesn't matter if this is ruffed — you still have twelve tricks, as an extra trump is released for taking spade ruffs in hand.

Hamman surprisingly played the king of diamonds at trick two, thereby prematurely removing a vital entry to hand. After that he could only make twelve tricks. According to Zia, Hamman was in such a state of euphoria on seeing the dummy that for once his famed toughness deserted him. This was the full deal:

Dealer South	Love All
♠K1073	♥A108642
♦A108	♣AK7
♠AQJ4	♥J8832
♦Q10854	♣Q7
♠QJ7	♥AK7
♦AK7	♣K853
♠88652	♥98542

After the hand, Zia said he should have removed himself to Six Hearts when Hamman redoubled Six Diamonds. Obviously Hamman knew that Zia had doubled for a spade lead; hence his redouble advertised to the world that he could handle that lead. In fact Hamman's hand was improved by the double — it followed that his partner's spades were not going to be particularly strong, so the rest of his high cards were going to be in the right place.

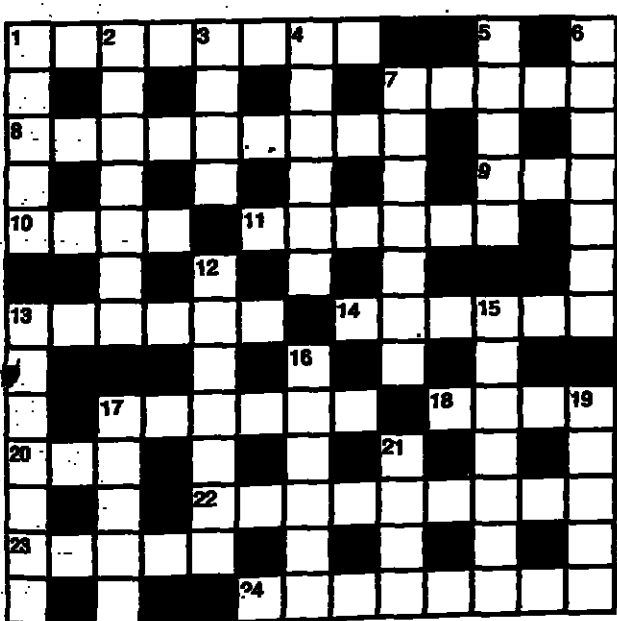
Szwarc and Bompis sacrificed in Six Hearts at another table and went three down, a good score against Six Diamonds. Despite the fact that a grand slam is a reasonable proposition on the deal, three North-South pairs did not advance beyond game. The contract was played in Six Diamonds doubled at three tables. Forrester was the only declarer who managed his entries correctly to make an overtrick.

The tournament was won by Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell (U.S.); Szwarc and Bompis (France) were second.

Michael Rosenberg has won the 1994 American Contract Bridge League Player of the Year title. This is awarded to the player who does best in the four biggest American Contract Bridge League tournaments (the Spring, Summer and Fall nationals, and the Grand National).

No. 3292: 65 by Caper

TWO CROSSWORD



No 393

ACROSS

- Capacity to float (8)
- Wild (of animal) (5)
- Accurately (captured appearance) (2,3,4)
- Joker; shake (3)
- Close by (4)
- Pay attention (6)
- Support for overhead workmen (6)
- Carry, get across (6)
- Chronological records (6)
- Refusing to hear (4)
- Grab; receptacle (3)
- Thoroughly well (2,3,4)
- Group of species (5)
- An adolescent (8)

DOWN

- Conductor's stick (5)
- Eight-sided building (7)
- Top of egg pyramid (4)
- Medical treatment centre (6)
- Haggard (5)
- Capricious, flirtatious (7)
- To gild (7)
- Assisi saint (7)
- Gum resin, makes yellow pigment (7)
- Swinging round (esp. of wind) (7)
- Cheerful, carefree (6)
- Severe distress (5)
- Bed-of-nails practitioner (5)
- A non-flowering plant (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 392

ACROSS: 1 Cenotaph 5 Calf 8 Crimp 9 Inking 11 Pie 12 Moonshine 13 Toucan 15 Sought 18 Misguided 19 Dot 20 Cane 21 Asian 22 Head 23 Mechanic
DOWN: 1 Cockpit 2 Naive 3 Tape-measure 4 Prison 6 Aiding 7 Ruyne 10 Kiss of death 14 Upsurge 16 Titanic 18 Adhere 18 Micah 19 Deign

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3, 4, 5 & 6 £5.99 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99), The Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords — (Books 1 to 13 £4.50 each, NEW Book 14 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords: Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each), The Sunday Times Crosswords: Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all PCs — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Please pay by U.K. Cheques with order payable to Adam Ltd, 51 Manor Road, London SE15 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Answers to the eight asterisked clues need to be Playfair encoded before entry into the diagram. All 36 clues have one or more consecutive superfluous words in them, the initial letters of which will help make the Playfair square. A simple substitution will also be required.

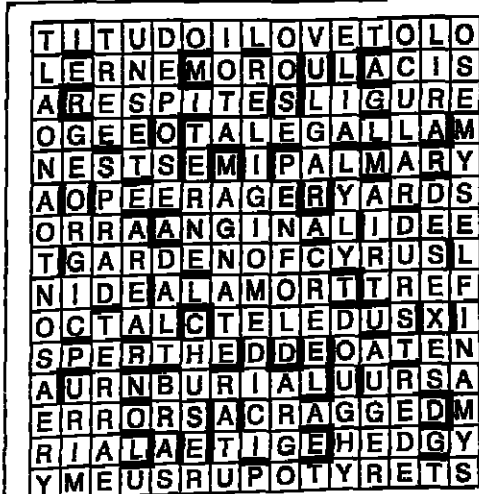
A standard Playfair square contains 25 different letters (omitting J) in an order to be deduced. To encode a word its letters must first be split into pairs, eg HE IG HT. Each pair is then treated as the opposite corners of a rectangle within the square, the other two corners being the coded form. Thus, in the example, IG gives SE and HT gives EP. If a pair are in the same row or column, the letters immediately to be right or below (or where a letter is the last in the row or column, the first letter in the same) give the coded form. Thus HEIGHT gives CGSEEP.

C E G R H
K L N U M
B T W O P
X I S F A
Q V Y D Z

ACROSS

- I'm often upset by you, say, making glimpse (6)
- House surgeon, left in charge of the people (6)
- When it's Christmas one priest takes present to code breaker (10)

- Distressed cry as yard smuggle narcotics (4)
- This furnished young fish bolts back vegetable (7)
- Doctor takes four "Fantasy" for wild experiences (9) ...
- ... experiences transcendental states tripping (6)
- Tandoori oven cooked filling of banana for curry's accompaniment (4)
- Gracefully thin? Tofu leftovers could be for this (6)
- Enraged snakes to the East? Pass silently (6)
- Leach's gulls return from Tehuantepec — that's Mexico (4)
- Unstable young pig has extremely pongy trough (6)
- Spurs refines act for new cult (9)
- Snouts? Non smoker has bad luck, fanlight which doesn't open (7)
- Heartless sadistic Sheik punished one from another following (4)
- Not tripping excessively at Do, merely dancing (10)
- Writhing snake wrapped around five Ethiopian boys (6)
- Navy bigwig meets sailor's old woman for romantic intrigue (6)



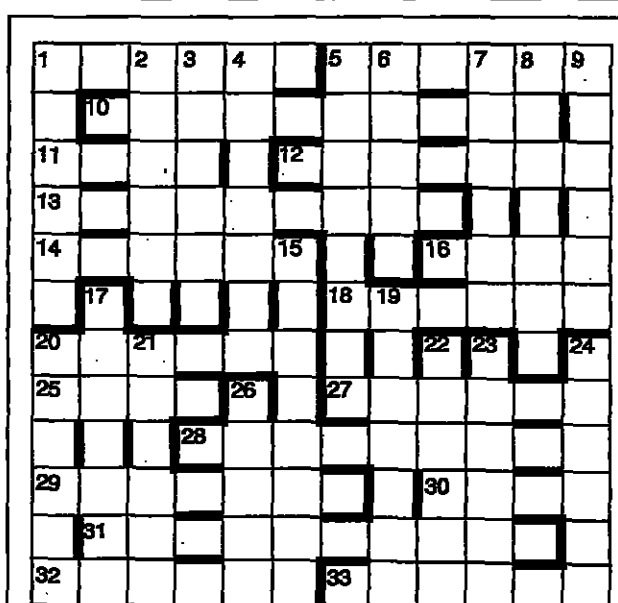
Solution to No. 3289: Prosaic by Le Gallois

Unclued lights are all works by Sir Thomas Browne: *Religio Medici* (the source of the quotation), *Garden of Cyrus*, *Urn Burial* and *Vulgar Errors*.

- Extraneous words — Sir Thomas Browne
- Extraneous letters — NAT: London sixteen five
- Misprints — died sixteen eighty two

- across 1,15,36,44,45 down 1,2,3,9,17,18,20,23,35,46
- across 11,13,18,24,30,31,37,39,42,54,57 down 5,7,22,26,27,40,41,47,50
- across 14,16,19,22,25,28,38,51,55,56 down 4,8,21,29,32,34,43,48,49,52

The winner was G.M. Neighbour, of Altham Road, Hatch End, Middlesex. The runners-up were M.E.E. Harrison, of Froburgstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland, and Bob Newman, of Chartwell Place, Epsom, Surrey.



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earns a
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from Lord
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All eyes on
Tyrrell's
search for
winning
formula
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 1995

Jonathan Prynn on how a convicted drink-driver can win back that lost licence

The fast lane back from the ban



Moment of truth: a roadside breath test can lead to a conviction that costs dearly. A government self-help scheme that gets banned drink-drivers back on the road earlier also helps to cut the bills

Hundreds of convicted drink-drivers have taken a short cut to getting their licences back by attending hard-hitting courses which hammer home the anguish of accident victims.

The offenders undergo a programme which impresses the simple but crushing message that they increase the risk of death or injury to themselves and others every time they start up a car after a drink.

Participants might have to watch harrowing videos made by the families of people killed by drink-drivers, which are meant to shock and shame. They may be made to feel the agony of a bereaved parent by playing the role of one whose child has been killed by a drink-driver. Health education workers describe in

graphic detail the debilitating effects of long-term alcohol abuse. Policemen and lawyers also give talks.

Offenders must demonstrate they are intent on mending their ways by attending every session. If they do not, they risk being failed and their enrolment money wasted.

The reward for enduring these government-approved schemes is a cut of up to 25 per cent in the period of disqualification and a discount of up to 40 per cent on the heavy insurance bills they face when they get back behind the wheel.

The courses are the latest Department of Transport weapon against drink-driving, which is still responsible for more than 500 road deaths a year, about one in seven of all road fatalities.

This week Steven Norris,

the road safety minister, declared the courses, launched in 1993 but still run on an experimental basis, a success. By the end of the decade, they are likely to be available throughout the country. They may be made compulsory for persistent offenders.

For the past two years, 21 magistrates' courts in England and Wales and two sheriff courts in Scotland have had the legal power to offer offenders the option of attending the courses at 19 approved centres. More than 180 courses have been run.

By the end of December, 11,725 drink-drivers had been convicted in participating courts: since the start of the experiment. Of those, 4,206 (36 per cent) were offered the opportunity to attend a course and 1,254 (11 per cent) took up the offer.

The courses are typically attended by 15 to 20 offenders, the overwhelming majority of whom are men. They usually last for 20 to 30 hours, spread over five or six sessions, and cost between £50 and £200, which offenders must pay out of their own pockets.

According to government figures released last week, the courses are having a dramatic effect on the attitudes of those who attend. At the start, most showed an alarming level of ignorance about the physical and mental effects of drinking and the legal limit for drivers (80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood).

Only 32 per cent scored above 70 per cent in alcohol knowledge tests. Multiple-choice questions included: "How much beer drunk in two hours would put an average man at the legal limit?" Possible answers range from one and a half pints — the correct answer — to five pints, way over the limit.

By the end of the courses, a sufficient level of knowledge was achieved by 86 per cent of participants. About four in ten said they intended to cut their intake of alcohol.

Commenting on the figures, Mr Norris said: "Rehabilitation courses offer a real opportunity to change an offender's attitude before he or she drives again. These findings show the experimental scheme is succeeding in this."

By the end of each course, it is hoped those taking part will never feel tempted to drink and drive again. No research has yet been carried out into reconviction rates, as most of the courses have been running for only a year. However,

PENALTIES AROUND THE WORLD

- **United States:** legal limits range from 80 to 100 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood. Typical disqualification for first offender is six months. Many states require offenders to attend rehabilitation courses, which could reduce disqualification by up to three quarters or permit driving to work and church only.
- **France:** 70mg. spot fines up to £350, disqualification for three months to life and up to two years' jail.
- **Germany:** 80 mg. more than 110mg is punishable by fine of one to two months' wages for first offence with at least six months' disqualification. Maximum one year jail. Rehabilitation course can reduce disqualification.
- **Austria:** 80mg. Maximum police fine £3,000 or court fine up to £100,000. Six months' disqualification for a first offence. Rehabilitation courses available.
- **Ireland:** 70mg. maximum fine of IRL1,000 and mandatory driving ban of 12 months. Maximum six months' jail.
- **Sweden:** 20mg. maximum fine 120 days' wages. Twelve-month disqualification for levels up to 150mg, three years for more than 150mg. Maximum prison sentence two months, longer when there are casualties.

Women start to cut up rough

Helen Mound
on a big rise in
female car crime

Something sinister is taking place on Britain's roads: women drivers, still regarded by insurance companies as lesser risks than men, are turning into law-breakers. The number jailed for motoring crimes has doubled in the past year.

Official figures show a striking increase in female motoring offences. Most alarming is the rise in the use of violence. Last year, a middle-aged Berkshire woman was bound over after tussling with another woman driver. A girl was fined for criminal damage when she used a wheelbrace to smash the lights on a male driver's BMW. And a teenager claimed she was attacked by an older female driver in a supermarket car park.

In each case, tempers flared for trivial reasons such as a squabble over a parking space or queue-jumping, resulting in "road rage".

The AA recently identified the phenomenon in a survey. Rayner Peet, of the AA, said: "Fifty-four per cent of female drivers admitted acts of aggression. When resorting to violence, though, most turned against their victim's vehicle. Only 1 per cent admitted to physical violence."

The number of women jailed for motoring-related crimes has doubled in the past year, according to a monthly prison service document. That would account for at least 100 of the 1,866 women currently in jail. Their offences include drink-driving, careless and dangerous driving, and driving while disqualified.

Overall, 123,425 motoring offences were committed by women in 1993, nearly a 10 per cent increase on 1991. However, 1,391,341 offences were recorded against men. Women account for almost half the number of motorists and more than half (51%) of all drivers under 35.

Sophie, a 26-year-old designer from Cambridge, admits to fits of violent aggression when upset by another driver: "I'm not afraid to speak my mind to a woman, but I'd never confront a male. I'd make sure I got even, though."

Writing expletives in lipstick on the other car's windscreen, letting tyres down and removing wipers are among her favourite tactics.

One example from the next generation of female drivers was revealed last month. A girl from Plymouth told police she led on a 25-mile, 100mph chase: "Not bad driving for a 15-year-old, was it?"

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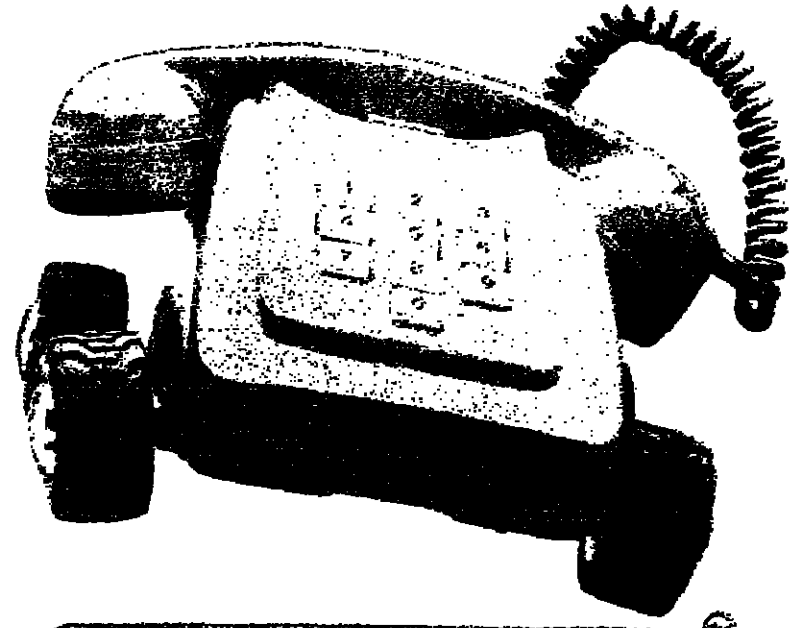
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Bad drivers are not all speed-crazed youths — there are plenty of dangerous old duffers imperilling our progress

Dr Brian diagnoses a non-runner for nitwits

Here is a salutary coincidence. About 15 minutes after I heard on the car radio that Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, was introducing a Pass Plus scheme to cut accidents among young drivers, a man aged about 60 who had been driving on the crown of the road in front of me suddenly decided to turn, not right, but left. No signal, no nothing.

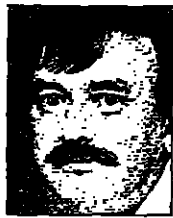
He just missed a cyclist riding along inside him, who nonetheless fell off his bicycle as the incompetent duffer sailed across his bows. That helps to explain why my welcome for Pass Plus is muted. It will have only a limited effect and tackles only one of the problems.

The reason why drivers under 21 are four times more likely to make an insurance claim than drivers aged 40 is not that all, or even most, young drivers are mad.

The statistics are bolstered by a minority of young drivers who persistently have accidents. The chances of these nitwits forking out nearly £100 to get extra tuition (the scheme is voluntary) are slim going on non-existent.

This does not negate the case for trying to do something about them, but I believe we should also be doing something about the people who read this column. Heck, no, I don't mean that. I mean people of the same age as the ones who read this

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

column, but who do not read it because they are not as bright as the ones who do. There, that's better.

The trouble with middle-aged and elderly drivers is that, however inadequate the test they took, they have forgotten most of the things they learned in order to pass it. They — we — don't signal properly, don't drive at a safe distance, and so on.

So, stressing that I do not have shares in a driving school, there ought to be an incentive scheme whereby people who signed up every ten years for one of the two-hour refresher courses that the bigger schools provide would have their insurance premiums, the same incentive that Dr Mawhinney has arranged for young drivers.

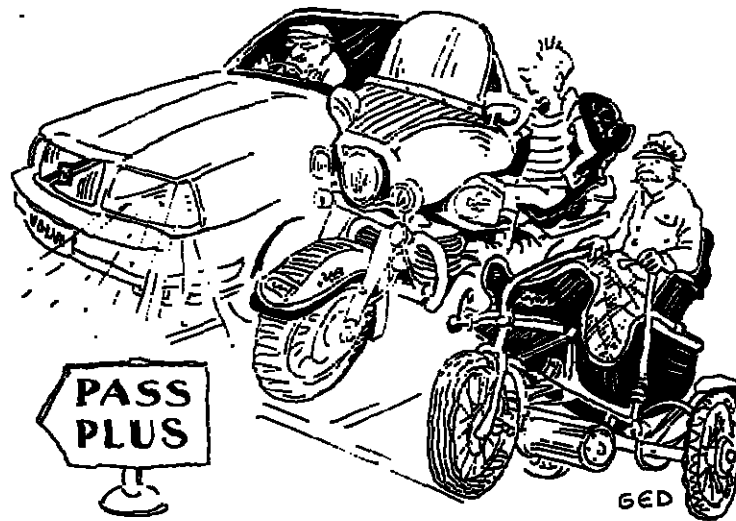
I think the take-up would be much higher in the older age group, because whereas cars and their related costs are about the only big item in a young person's budget, mortgaged, middle-aged parents are more alert to saving money.

During the nationwide firework celebrations that launched this column three weeks ago I mentioned my antipathy to Volvo drivers and offered a bottle of champagne for the best defence of them and another for the best attack on them.

The scale of your response has proved that everyone has a view where Volvos are concerned but you have also forced me to rethink my bias because Volvo drivers have something that makes all their sins forgivable: a terrific sense of humour.

One bottle of bubbly must go to Deborah Bragg, of Langley Marsh, Norwich, who says: "Of course we sit in the middle of the road (jumbo jets always taxi down the centre of the taxiway) and what on earth is the point of signalling at junctions when you haven't actually made up your mind where you want to go?"

Deborah says the invincibility of Volvos is proved by a recent head-on in which "my armour-plating was merely scratched whereas the make of my opponent was unrecognisable, even as I generously towed him



home". Do we believe a word of this? I make no comment.

The rest of the bubbly goes to Philip Kendrick of Eastham, Wirral, on Merseyside, who used to be PC Philip Kendrick until he encountered a Volvo. It was piloted by "a seemingly model Volvo driver in cloth cap, grey anorak and patented myopia" who "turned across my path, swiping me off my police motorcycle at 40 miles per hour."

Philip then had to hobble after the driver, who had stopped to collect his wife, and was oblivious to the fact that he had been in an accident.

"This single act of motor vandalism brought my police career to an end after only six years" Philip writes. I have invented a third prize, the Volvo humour award, and will be sending the company's latest car catalogue (if I can lift it) to B.R.J. Simpson of Gosport, Hants. Mr Simpson was so shocked by my item that "I nearly dropped my sandwich on to the steering wheel." He explains the little-known fact that the permanently lit sidelights on Volvos are so that "the hot polio have time to step back and admire the car." Oh I see. Thanks to all who wrote.

'Jolly bad luck — that's £550'

John Wellman
on how it took
ten hours of
labour to replace
a part supposed
never to fail

The words of the service manager at my garage did not sound doom-laden when he pronounced: "It's the heating matrix, sir." What I did not realise was that the glittering finger of fate had paused above me; but instead of a winner, it had picked a victim in the "lousy design" lottery.

The heating matrix is not much to look at. An oblong metal construction (2in by 6in by 2in, and shaped like a small radiator, it provides warm air to heat the car. They are supposed never to go wrong, so manufacturers smuggle them deep in the car where they can remain unmolested until the vehicle is scrapped. If they do fail, trouble and cost follow.

My venerable Renault 25 TX, with nearly 75,000 on the clock, had been almost completely trouble-free during its life. Comfortable and reliable, the alarm bells rang only mildly when the heater stopped working and the temperature gauge refused to move, but then after 10 minutes driving sprang straight into the red. Leaking holes in the cooling system, I thought.

The technician at my Renault garage sounded mournfully like a doctor diagnosing a long, painful and exotic illness. "About the worst thing that could have gone wrong, most unusual. Jolly bad luck."

The price of the heating matrix itself was £57.50. The total cost of the transplant, however, was £555.39, including value-added tax. This is because it took 10.5 hours



Loser in the design lottery: the author in a Renault 25. His own was remarkably trouble-free until a minor fault required a major operation

work to get the old one out and put the new one in.

Instead of simply opening the bonnet, unscrewing the thing and bolting another one in its place, the mechanics had to dismantle virtually the whole dashboard, remove most of its innards and, key-hole-surgery-style, negotiate the matrix out through the glove compartment. The work took a couple of days and the garage loaned me a car while the major surgery progressed.

The final bill also included coolant, a new clip for something or other and £2.38 for a bulb in a clock which had gone but had previously not been worth removing the dashboard for.

What I had not realised is that the heating matrix ranks alongside the sunroof and the dashboard itself as one of the most difficult parts of a car to replace.

Renault's head office in Britain confirmed that 10.5 hours

was the correct amount of labour time needed to replace the matrix on my model. However, he pointed out that on Renault's latest model, the Laguna, the same part could be whipped out and replaced in 1.5 hours. It is now accessible through the engine rather than the glove compartment.

What does the motor industry say about all this? John Singer, technical director of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, noted:

"Normally, the bits you need to get at on a regular basis are easy to get to but there is always going to be the odd one which is difficult."

Roy Staunton, head of technical advice for the AA, said: "Very rarely do you have a problem with the heater matrix. They normally last the lifetime of the car. I know Renault had a few problems on the 25 with them. Yes, they are a devil of a job to get to." Renault said: "There have

been isolated cases [of faults in the heating matrix] before but it is not an endemic problem."

Should anybody in the same boat have any thoughts of carrying out the work themselves, a final warning from Mr Staunton: "With its engine management systems, onboard computers and catalytic converters, the modern car is beyond the scope of most DIY mechanics."

Additional research by Robin Barnwell

However, according to John Brockman, of brokers W.A. Ringrose in Barkingside, Essex, at least one company, Gan Insurance Group, and one Lloyd's syndicate will quote significant reductions for drivers who can prove they have successfully completed a rehabilitation course. Another insurer, Insurance GB, has said it will look favourably on successful course participants.

In some cases, the savings could be as much as 40 per cent. For example, a 33-year-old man living in Essex, driving a 1993 Ford Escort 1400 and with a maximum no-claims record, would save up to £157 on fully comprehensive cover.

A 43-year-old man living in Newcastle upon Tyne, without any no-claims bonus and driving a 1990 1342cc Rover 213, would benefit from a £197 discount for fully comprehensive cover. A 27-year-old Portsmouth man with two years no-claims bonus driving a Vauxhall Cavalier SRi 1800, and seeking third party, fire and theft cover, could save up to £76.

BACK FROM THE BAN

Continued from page 1
good organisers say that if course intentions are converted into changes in behaviour, the number of drink-drivers on Britain's roads should soon start to fall.

Trevor Groom, director of the Bromley Alcohol Advisory Service, one of the 19 approved course organisers, says those attending are often relieved to meet people in the same predicament. "There is a therapeutic and self-help component as people get to know each other. There is a feel-good factor."

Once successfully completed, the courses bring more tangible benefits. In the case of a three-year disqualification, completion could bring a driver back on the roads nine months earlier than otherwise — a huge gain for somebody dependent on driving to make their living.

Several insurers also offer discounts for people who complete the courses. Typically, motorists with drink-driving convictions can expect to see their premiums

rise by about 50 per cent after disqualification.

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THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton: road width reduced on the Lea Valley Viaduct.

A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs.

A214 Trinity Rd, Wandsworth: temporary lights at junction with Burnwood Lane cause regular delays, especially northbound.

A316 Twickenham Bridge, near Richmond: down to one lane each way for reconstruction work.

A110 Windmill Hill, Enfield: roadworks at junction with Church St — down to one lane westbound.

A501 Kings Cross one-way system: major work from Monday. First stage will be overnight with lane closures. Then 24-hour restrictions — long delays expected.

A1 East Finchley: major repairs in the area — lane restrictions on Fallowfield Way and Leighton Rd cause regular delays.

A3 Kingston Bypass: southbound down to one lane between Shearwater Corner and New Malden exit slip. From 9pm Friday until February 27. Severe delays anticipated.

● SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey J7-8: contraflow causes regular delays and affects traffic leaving from J23 northbound.

M25 Surrey J10-11: major widening work with contraflow.

A3 Guildford: contraflow between Abbotwood and Cathedral interchange — expect delays especially near A322 Dennis slip road.

A329 Blandford, Dorset: roadworks at May Office roundabout (junction with the A322/A3085/53022) until June.

A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Washampanett and Whyke roundabouts until May.

A3020 Cowes: temporary lights on Newport Rd at junction with Three Gables Rd for roundabout construction until end of February.

A303 Hampshire: closed overnight between Bullington and Andover from 8pm to 6am for bridge repairs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Also closed 11pm to 6am on Friday.

● SOUTH WEST

M4 Avon J20-21: major roadworks affecting both carriageways.

M32 Avon J1-2: lane restrictions both ways for bridge work — peak time delays.

M5 Gloucestershire J11-12: contraflow in place until September.

M5 Devon near J27 (Tiverton): contraflow and northbound entry slip road closed.

A419 Swindon: contraflow between Tumpike roundabout and A361 junction, with slip road onto B4141 Hyde Rd closed until end of March.

A3074 Cornwall: temporary lights between Stives and Carbis Bay. Stives-bound traffic should use the Coach Rd which is signposted at Lelant.

A3029 Bristol: Merchants Rd closed in Cumberland Basin System at Junction Lock Bridge causing knock-on delays on Anchor Rd and Cumberland Rd until March.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 West Midlands J4-6: major work with contraflow until March.

M5 West Midlands J3-4 (South-west of Birmingham): various lane closures for barrier and lighting work, with additional restrictions sometimes overnight.

● SCOTLAND

M90 Tayside J8-9: contraflow in operation for roadworks.

M8 Lochary (Newbridge): various restrictions between J1 and Edinburgh City Bypass as motorway is under construction.

Edinburgh: with restrictions on High St between the North and South bridges until end of June.

A741 Renfrew Rd, Paisley: closed northbound for roadworks, contraflow southbound, delays expected peak times.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A6 Co Londonderry: lights on Glenshane Rd, Cashel for resurfacing.

A37 Limavady, Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Broad Rd for resurfacing until April.

A500 Stoke-on-Trent: closed overnight between Hanford and City Rd interchange from 7pm today to 6am Monday. Diversions.

A1M near Blyth, Notts: new contraflow between Harworth and A614 until March.

A38 north of Derby: major work starting on Little Eaton Bypass with lane restrictions and contraflow.

A52 Nottingham Ring Rd: major roadworks between Dunkirk and Nottingham Knight until April.

A46 Stonebridge, West Midlands: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island — (40mph limit and lane closures).

M6 Cheshire J20-21A: roadworks continue near Thelwell Viaduct.

M62 West Yorkshire J25-26 (Brighouse/Chain Bar): lane closures with contraflow to follow. Westbound entry slip closed at J25. Work continues until March 24.

M18 South Yorkshire J3-4 (Doncaster Area): major reconstruction work with contraflow and contraflow expected soon until April.

M57 Merseyside J1 (Tarbock Island): roadworks and lane closures at roundabout junction with the M62, with additional restrictions at weekends until April.

M62 Humberston J34-35 (Whitley Bridge/Loughborough): contraflow with two lanes each way and eastbound entry slip road at J34 closed.

A61 Leeds, West Yorkshire: ongoing widening works at Crowfoot Point Bridge for improvements.

● WALES

Wales take on England at Cardiff Arms Park next Saturday. The following closures apply: Westgate Street closed between Park St and Castle St junctions. Womansby St, Quay St, Guildhall Place, Scott Rd and part of King Edward 7th Ave. These closures will be implemented between 11am and 6pm.

M4 Gwent J23-22: lane restrictions and contraflow for widening between Magor and Rogiet for construction of second Severn crossing until June.

A472 Pontypool: demolition works on Pontypool Gyratory with lane restrictions and temporary lights affecting Rockhill Rd especially.

A5 Maestry, Chwyd: improvements continue at Chwyd bridge. Various restrictions including temporary lights at times and short-term closures until end of July.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llanerch and Aberdulais: contraflow on Sallings viaduct for resurfacing. Long delays.

● SCOTLAND

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Rover revs up assault on fleet market

PLANS to increase dramatically the number of cars Rover sells to business drivers have prompted a speed-up in the launch of the company's next generation models (Maurice Glover writes).

Pressure to boost sales to the fleet market by up to 50 per cent has brought forward the launch campaign for the new 400 range by a month. That means details of the most significant Rover volume car to be pitched against Ford and Vauxhall will now be available at the end of next month — just after the Honda Civic, jointly developed with the 400 and another contender in the burgeoning fleet market, reaches the showrooms.

Over the past five months, buyers for the country's biggest fleets have seen and driven some of the cars Rover hopes will account for 120,000 medium-class sales next year. Their "positive" response is said to have guaranteed future fleet sales.

"We're sticking to our on-sale date of May 16, but our orders are to start telling the



Coming soon: the Honda Civic 1.5i is another contender for company sales

public that the Mondeo or Cavalier no longer have to be regarded as the natural company car choices," said a spokesman. "Rover is now producing an alternative which is equally competitive but also offers prestige."

Developed on a platform shared with the Civic, the 400 is almost identical in size to the market-leading Ford Mondeo. Initially, the £11,000 to £18,000 range will be offered in five-door form, with

the new 1.4 and 1.6-litre K-series engines. Two-litre petrol and diesel engines will be available in autumn, and there will be four-door saloons next February.

HAVING a competitor in the medium sector will allow Rover to mount a second push for company sales when it reveals new three- and five-door 200 models at the London Motor Show in October. Designed to compete more effectively with the Escort and Astra, these will share power units with the 400.

Honda is also taking an aggressive marketing stance with its new Civic five-door. Despite having twin airbags, high-level specification and a two-year warranty, the lead-in 1.4i model's price of £11,495 undercuts the Escort LX by £245. The 1.5i, which claims diesel economy with a petrol engine, is £640 less than the Escort TDLX at £11,795.

Several insurers also offer discounts for people who complete the courses. Typically, motorists with drink-driving convictions can expect to see their premiums

New MG unveiled

Only 120 dealers will sell the new MGF sports car which will be unveiled next month at the Geneva Motor Show. Rover is planning a separate network to stock the roadster as part of the move to achieve a new identity for the marque which has suffered from a chequered recent history. The MGF is the first all-new MG sports car since 1980 when the MGB was killed off.

Winning performance

The winner of our trip to the International Performance Car Show this weekend at Olympia, London, was Christopher Drew from Pury, Surrey. He wins a night at the Radisson Vanderbilt Hotel in Kensington, a copy of the video, Porsche — the Racing Legend, worth £19.99, and the 1995 Mini A-Z Great Britain Road Atlas. Ten runners-up also win two tickets to the show as well as the video and atlas. Tickets for the show, which features a range of fast cars, cost £7.50, or £3.50 for under-15s. Full details of the show's opening times are available on 081-744 1585.

Electric cars on grid

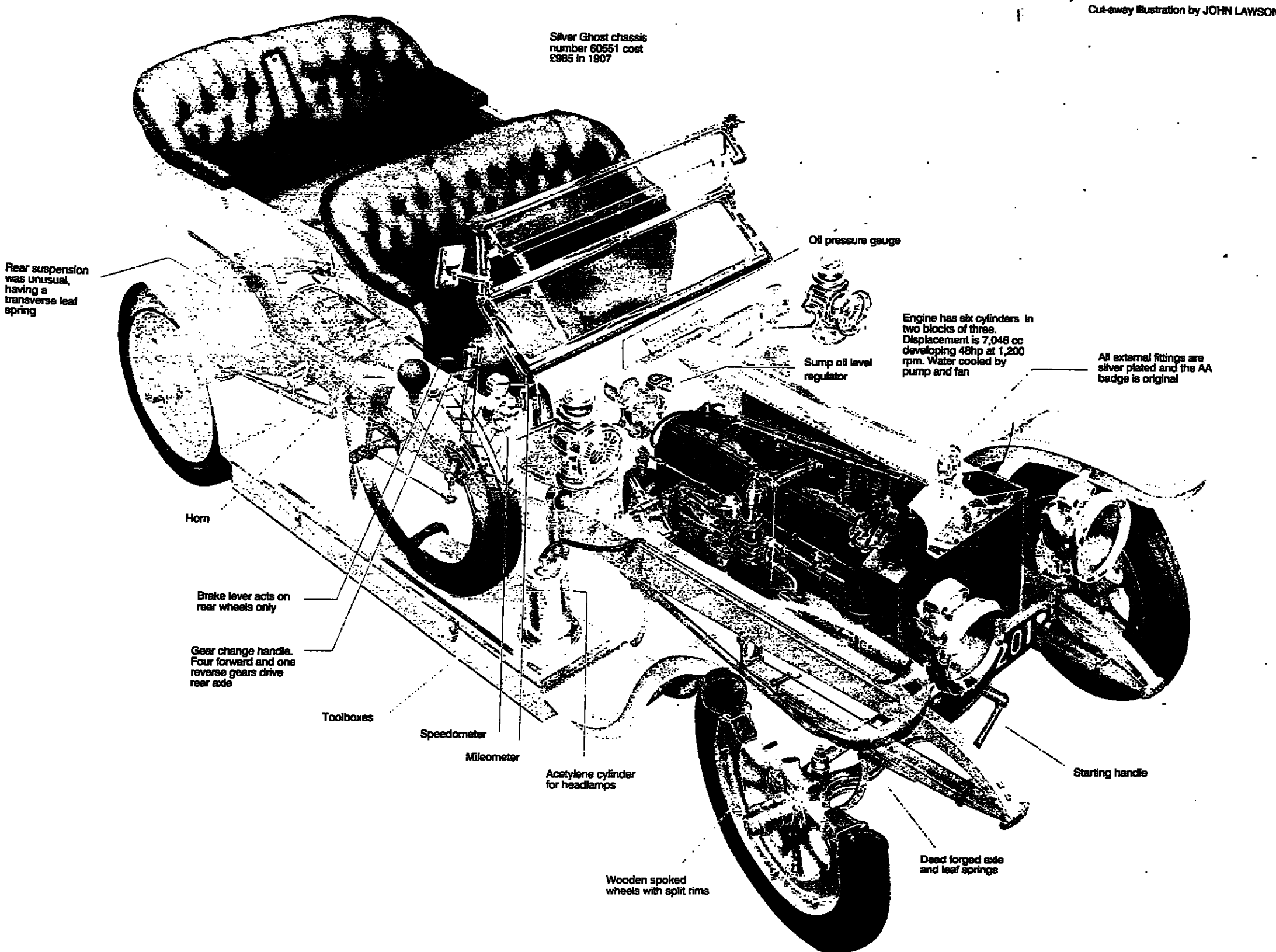
The first motor race for electric cars is on August 28 at Mallory Park in Leicestershire and will be the first round of an international series in the Electric Solar World Cup. The battery-powered cars should be capable of 140mph with some cars developing 400 brake horse power.

Mikkola heads rally

Organisers are confident that the London to Mexico rally will go ahead even though there is trouble en route. Competitors from 22 nations are due to set out on April 22 but the route takes them through Peru and Ecuador, two nations currently engaged in border skirmishes. The entrants are headed by Hannu Mikkola, one of the world's top rally drivers.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu hails the 1907 Silver Ghost in his series on 12 great British cars

The silent star with a silver lining

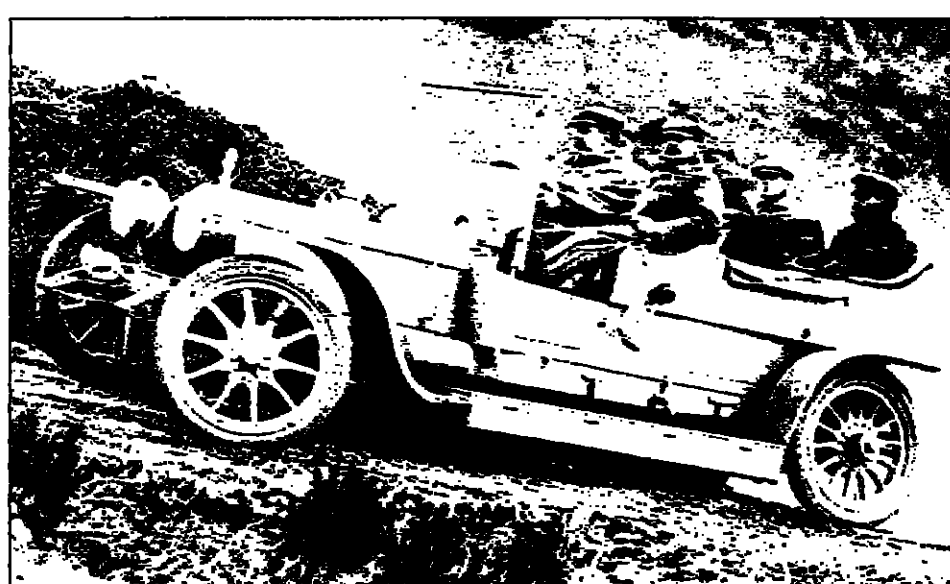


In the spring of 1904, the Honourable Charles Stewart Rolls was a successful car salesman forced to sell foreign cars because there was no British-made car of sufficient quality for his aristocratic customers.

Unhappy with this, he confided to Henry Edmunds — a pioneer of electric lighting and telephony and friend of Thomas Edison — that he wanted to be connected with a car which would make Rolls a household name. Edmunds said he knew of a small car just built in Manchester by a manufacturer of electric cranes, Frederick Henry Royce. If Rolls could visit Manchester, he might find just what he wanted.

The two men met eventually over lunch at the Midland Hotel on May 4, 1904, with Edmunds as host; in the afternoon Rolls tried the Royce car and returned to London convinced that he had found his quality British car. His partner, Claude Johnson, agreed and the way was open for the creation of the most famous association in motoring history.

The original Royce car had only two cylinders and although wonderfully smooth, it did not suit his ambitions for a top quality car. Fortunately, Royce had told Rolls that he hoped to make cars with four and even six cylinders. Actual-



Charles Rolls is the front-seat passenger as the Silver Ghost undergoes trials in 1907

ly, the first six-cylinder did not appear until 1905 with the 30hp model. The engine was really no more than three blocks of the two-cylinder engine and suffered, like all sixes of the day, from crankshaft vibration. Royce realised a complete redesign was needed. He created a new engine, larger than the six-litre 30hp at 703cc and with cylinders conceived as a brace of triplets rather than a trio of twins. Known as the 40/50, it was shown to the public at

London's Olympia Motor Show in November, 1906. Claude Johnson did not believe in releasing an untested car on the market and, for the first half of 1907, prototypes of the 40/50 were tested up and down the country. The 12th chassis numbered 60 551 was fitted with a silver-plated touring body, with silver-plated fittings. Cars often had individual names and this one was called the Silver Ghost because of its uncanny silence, with a plaque to that effect on

the dashboard. It was not until several years later that the name came to be applied to all 40/50s. Among the trials to which the Silver Ghost was subjected were a drive from Bexhill to Glasgow (about 470 miles) using the two upper gears only, and continuous driving between Glasgow and London until 15,000 miles had been covered. When the car was dismantled after this trial, the cost in materials to bring it back to mint condition was £2

2s 7d. The Autocar tested the Silver Ghost in April 1907 and was impressed: "There is no realisation of driving propulsion: the feeling as the passenger sits either at the front or back is one of being wafted through the landscape."

The Silver Ghost was sold to a private owner in 1908 and returned to the factory in 1948. It still appears regularly on the company's behalf in rallies and shows, and is arguably the most valuable Edwardian car in existence.

The first 40/50s went on sale in September 1907 and demand was high. Even before it went into production, a search for a new factory was underway, because the Manchester premises were too cramped. A site at Derby was chosen. My father, who had already purchased his first Rolls-Royce, opened the factory in July 1908. The smaller Rolls-Royces were dropped and the Silver Ghost became the only model. Production averaged seven chassis per week (350 per annum), rising to 600 per annum by 1913.

Rolls-Royce never had a body department and all coachwork was by specialists, of which Barker and Hooper were the best known. Depending on chassis length and coachwork, the Silver Ghost was a car of contrasting character. Many were heavy limousines or landaulets, for the "maharajah" or the duchess" trade as Henry Royce called them, but there were also sprint models such as the London-Edinburgh and Alpine Eagle. The latter was originally a team car for the 1913 Austrian Alpine Trial. In the previous year's event, James Radley, a friend of Rolls, had failed to re-start on a 14-degree hill on the Katchberg Pass, forcing the passengers to get out. This lost Radley so many points that he had to retire. Great was the chagrin at Derby, and the cars were redesigned for 1913 with a four-speed gearbox and larger radiator. They dominated the 1913 event, taking six awards. The four-speed gearbox was standardised on all Ghosts as a result, and replicas of the team cars were sold under the name Continental or Alpine Eagle.

From 1911 most cars were fitted with the mascot known variously as the Flying Lady,

Silver Lady or more correctly, Spirit of Ecstasy. It was designed by the sculptor Charles Sykes and the model is generally acknowledged to have been my father's personal assistant Eleanor Thornton.

During the First World War the Silver Ghost was widely used by the armed forces in three main roles: as a staff car, as a supply vehicle with light truck body, and as an armoured car. Lawrence of Arabia valued them highly. "A Rolls in the desert was above rubies," he wrote.

After the war, Rolls-Royce was slow to change and the only concession to post-war motoring was that electric lighting and starting which had been extras in 1914 were now standardised and in 1924 Rolls-Royce at long last fitted four-wheel brakes — one of the last manufacturers of luxury

cars to do so. The Silver Ghost was dropped in May 1925. A total of 6,173 Ghost chassis were made and approximately 1,000 remain.

Of the two Silver Ghosts in the National Motor Museum I cannot make up my mind which is my favourite: the 1909 Tourer or the 1913 Alpine Eagle. The older one I bought as a breakdown truck and its early years were spent in Perth ending up as a hearse. It was splendidly restored in the 1960s with a Roi-des-Belge body and I have toured with it all over Europe.

The Alpine is my favourite, the perfect car for a rally. I remember the joy of crossing the endless Nullarbor Plain in Southern Australia, cruising steadily at 55mph, when I drove with Prince Michael of Kent from Perth to Canberra in the 1988 Bicentennial Rally.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Toyota in search of British revival

Toyota is to replace every current model in its range over the next two years to revive its fortunes in Britain.

That means a dozen new cars on the UK market while the Japanese company's factory at Burnaston, Derbyshire, will consolidate its position as the nation's fourth biggest car exporter after Nissan, Rover and Vauxhall.

Runaway winner

Citroens have captured leading places in the check on running costs organised by *Fleet Management* magazine. It shows that the AX, ZX and Xantia diesels are among class leaders for economy for business users over 60,000 miles. The Citroen ZX Reflex 1.9D costing 21.6p a mile.

Proton push

New Proton cars get improved warranty featuring three year/60,000 mile overall cover, six years or 60,000 miles for the power train, six years unlimited mileage on bodywork, three years and unlimited for paintwork plus three years membership of the RAC. The sales push for February and March includes two years free servicing.

Premiums fall

Premiums on touring caravans are falling by 13 per cent from Goldcare Insurance in Aldershot, Hampshire. The company stipulates every caravan is valued clamped if unattended, leading to reduced theft claims. Goldcare is on 0252-22596.

Fiat price rise

Fiat has raised prices by an average 2.5 per cent but says buyers get extra features as a bonus. Security window etching is introduced on several models while the Punto also gets an immobiliser and driver's side airbag.

New Nissan

Nissan is raising the stakes for sales of small cars with a new model, the Micra Mauritian, on sale from £89 a month on its low cost finance scheme. The British-made 1.0-litre car comes at a base price of £7,495 but offers 47 miles to the gallon economy.

Back to basics

Lower specification Shoguns are on offer from Mitsubishi. The company has traditionally concentrated on high-spec 4x4s to compete with Land Rover but is now bringing in more basic GLX turbo-diesels at between £18,599 and £23,089.

The right track

One of Britain's big fleet companies, NT Gallagher of Manchester, has ordered 150 TrakBak homing devices from Securicor. The devices send out signals so that they can be tracked by police if stolen.

Sporty show

The Sports and Replica Car Show is on March 11 and 12 at Blagley Hall, Stafford.

Gambling with the numbers game

WHEN the horribly familiar sight of a motorcycle with flashing blue lights appeared in my rear-view mirror, I knew my number was up. This was the third time I had been stopped by police who wanted to know my number: the one at either end of the red Mazda MX5 I had bought a few months earlier and which I considered incomplete without a personalised plate (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Officer number three was not easily deterred. In vain did I produce the legal plates from the boot and argue truthfully that they were to be fitted that week at the 12,000 mile service. My crime was that the police couldn't make out the numbers and characters. I admitted that the J and the 9 had been trimmed and elided in order to make the R of "Ruth", and hoped the ingenuity might count in my favour. It didn't.

He told me the police had instituted a new "incentive scheme" to encourage legal plates, by imposing spot fines.



Before, top, and after correction

Writing out a ticket, he said that if I failed to pay £20, a warrant would be issued for my arrest. The DVLA at Swansea would be informed and I would be compulsorily issued with a new, standard number plate if I failed to comply with the legal requirements set out in circular V796. "A number plate is not a fashion accessory," he said.

More than £150 million has been raised since the DVLA introduced its own teletales operation in 1993, with prices now starting at £345 for a personalised plate, with an extra £80 to

cover Department of Transport costs. The best plates can fetch £6,000.

Difficulties arise when people such as myself, unwilling to pay such sums, try to cheat on the cheaper versions available.

"People do space numbers and letters illegally, and there are various ways," says the DVLA. Circular V796, and all DVLA publicity material, makes it clear that it is an offence to alter, rearrange or misrepresent letters or numbers in order to form names or words. There are also precise guidelines for spacing letters and numbers.

The meticulous policing now in place can, to the offender, seem unnecessary and trivial. But the police can only be right to alert drivers to the nature of an offence, which, at worst, could jeopardise the process of justice if an untraceable car were to be involved in a serious accident.

For Select, the DVLA teletales operation, call 081 200 6565.

THE TIMES Historic cars print offer

Today we offer readers the opportunity to buy prints of John Lawson's cut-away illustration of the 1899 Daimler — the first car in Lord Montagu's series of 12 outstanding British vehicles.

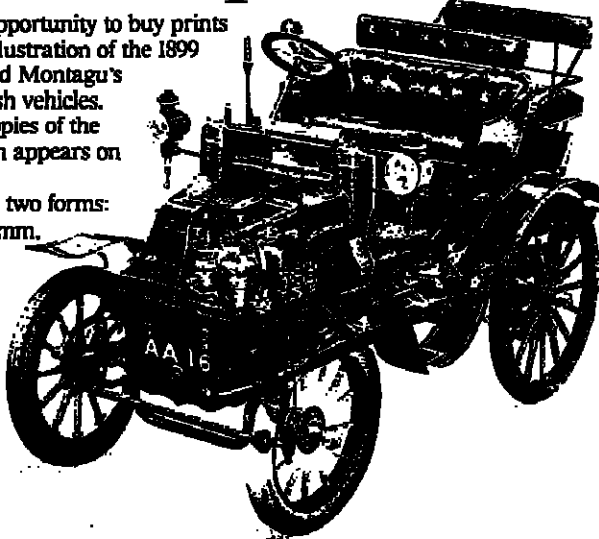
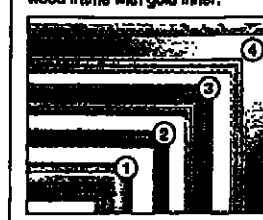
Readers may also order copies of the Rolls-Royce illustration which appears on this page.

The prints are available in two forms:

- Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage.
- A limited edition of 250 prints signed by Lawson and Lord Montagu, on 170gm paper, 297mm by 420mm plus a 6cm border and in a choice of four frames. Price £29.99 including VAT and carriage. For queries, phone 0843-602717.

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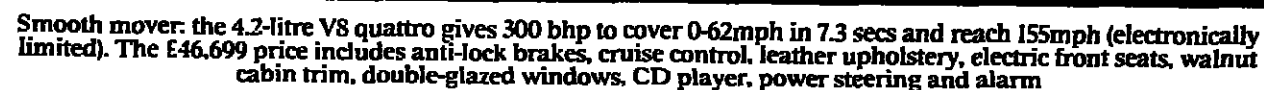
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**Bright, light
but not
quite right**

The German maker says the virtue of using aluminium in

does count. If you can afford it, you can flaunt it; and the Audi



JAGUAR SOVEREIGN: £42,950 **MERCEDES S420: £56,100**

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN: £42,950

The Big Cats have always had the magic, even if quality and reliability have been more than suspect in recent years. However, the new XJ cars from Coventry are superb: they look terrific, perform with the best and ooze class. More than a match for any rival in this category, the Sovereign has everything that any driver would want, from twin airbags to anti-theft locks and immobilisers, as well as a gorgeous, traditional Jaguar wood and leather interior.

MERCEDES S420: £56,100

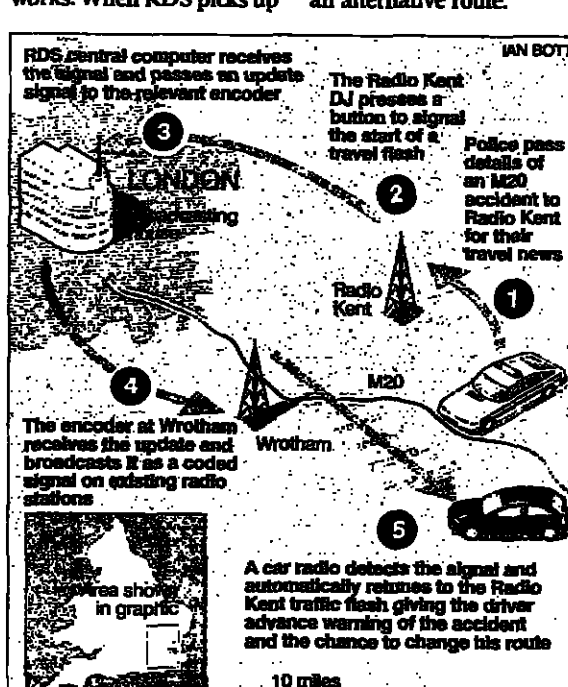
Love it or loathe it, you have to admit that the S-Class is a remarkable car. It has everything and does everything — with knobs on. But it is a vast, overweight and somehow absurd piece of engineering that has made technical perfection the goal at the expense of almost every motoring sensation and pleasure. The result is an amazing motoring machine, but who cares? The answer is probably nobody save for those who lust after the prestige of the three-pointed star.

The standard gadgets are impressive, including new security systems which have an alarm, immobiliser and visible vehicle identification numbers.

ent that a few days driving had me get not to hand it. It is almost a piece apart from a car. The weather, rain and wind exists, probably

The self-tuning car radio

A "flag" or "label", transmitted by radio stations, is interpreted by RDS tuners. This tells the receiver the programme's country of origin, whether the service is national, regional or local, and which transmitter broadcasting the station gives the strongest signal. RDS automatically retunes if it can get better reception. It also picks up TP (traffic programme) labels, which means that whatever station is being listened to, the receiver will time to traffic bulletins from other networks. When RDS picks up



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AA alert on DIY kits for brakes

Do-it-yourself motorists have been warned not to invest in anti-lock brakes they can fit themselves.

The AA says that the £300 kits will probably not improve braking and could put motorists in danger if not fitted correctly.

Discount offer

Premium Search, the Northampton-based direct insurer, is among the first to offer discounts to new drivers who take extra lessons after passing their test. Discounts could be worth 30 per cent. Information on 0800-109876.

£9.95 check-up

Honda is offering owners of 340,000 of its motorcycles an 18-point condition check for £9.95. Available until May 31, the check covers mechanical parts, including bearings, seals and clutch.

Peugeot party

Peugeot has made 1 million of its 106. A ceremony marking the milestone was held at the company's Mulhouse factory in France. The 106 is Britain's bestselling small diesel model and fifth bestselling small car, accounting for 30 per cent of Peugeot sales here.

Accident help

A new accident handling service has started with Town & Country as an add-on to motor insurance policies. It includes 24-hour recovery after a crash, replacement vehicle and help from a claims specialist. Cost £15 annually, further information on 0473-211000.

MG celebration

The Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, will celebrate 70 years of the MG from March 25 to June 11. Scores of MGs will be on show with entry price concessions for MG owners. Call Heritage on 0926-641188.

A City bus is testing a new invention designed to cleanse the air we breathe. Nick Nuttall reports

Route 535 proves just the ticket to lift the cloud over diesel exhausts

There is a breath of fresh air for the pedestrians, mothers with push chairs and cyclists on London's route number 535, which winds its way from Upton Park in east London to Aldgate in the City.

Over the past few months the Leyland Titan which plies the route has been testing a device which its makers claim can reform the tarshied image of diesel by helping to cleanse the exhaust of particulates — the invisible cloud of

sooty flecks which pour from diesel vehicles.

A welter of scientific papers have linked these pollutants with breathing difficulties, asthma attacks and cancer. Last month researchers in Aberdeen and Edinburgh claimed a link between particulates and heart attacks, saying that the sooty flecks cause blood to clot.

The new patented device tackles the stream of exhaust particles in a novel and, it is claimed, simple way. Peter

Duff, engineering director of Stagecoach East London, says the technology has removed smell and around 90 per cent of the particulates.

Called the continuously regenerating trap (CRT), it has been developed by the British company Johnson Matthey, one of the world's biggest makers of catalytic converters, and a British silencer maker called Elinox.

Vapourising the particulates

normally requires temperatures of over 600C which is well above operational temperatures of a diesel engine.

So rival developers have turned to heating devices including burners to tackle the haze of soot. Others have looked at altering the pressures in diesels to lower the vapourising temperature. But the complexity of such systems has hampered their appeal.

The new device hinges on

the discovery that nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a gas in the fumes, can "oxidise" particulates at temperatures of more than 250C if produced in sufficient quantities.

First the fumes from the engine pass through a catalyst which has been designed to maximise NO₂ levels. The gases then pass into the trap part of the system which is made from extruded ceramic containing millions of closed channels. The fumes pass through the walls leaving the soot behind. This then reacts with the NO₂ to form oxides of nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

There is a small increase in carbon dioxide emissions of around one to two per cent.

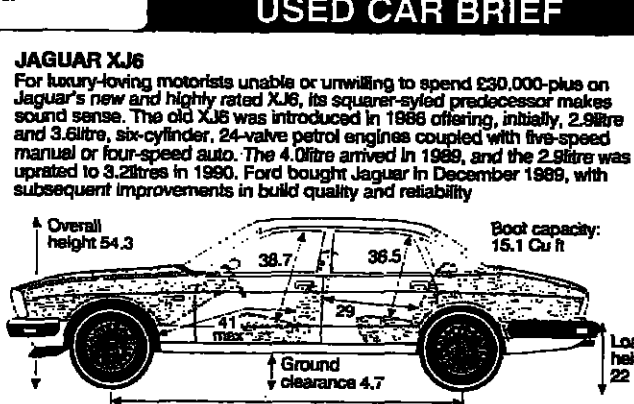
The device, which can be retrofitted to a diesel, acts as a silencer. A modern silencer costs around £1,000. The new system costs £3,000 to £4,000.

Johnson Matthey believes retrofitting is vital. New European pollution standards for diesels have been set for 1996. These will have little impact because a big diesel engine can last for many years. For example many buses in Britain are over 13 years old.

The device is most effective with low sulphur diesel fuels because the by-products of high sulphur diesel absorb water and condense on the filter undermining its performance. But the system has been developed to anticipate new regulations imposing sulphur limits on fuels.

Robert Searies of the company said they would be lobbying the Government for help in promoting the devices. They want tax breaks for low sulphur fuels.

The units are currently only suitable for big vehicles and not for diesel cars. But Dr Pelham Hawker of the company says 95 per cent of the particles in the air are traffic related and of these 84 per cent are from trucks or buses.



USED CAR BRIEF

JAGUAR XJ6
For luxury-loving motorists unable or unwilling to spend £30,000-plus on Jaguar's new and highly rated XJ6, its square-shouldered predecessor makes sense. The old XJ6 was introduced in 1986 offering, initially, 2.8 litre and 3.6 litre, six-cylinder petrol engines coupled with five-speed manual or four-speed auto. The 4.0 litre arrived in December 1989, with subsequent improvements in build quality and reliability.

GOOD NEWS: All XJ6 models carry a five-year, 100,000-mile warranty, and carry a three-year, 100,000-mile warranty introduced in 1992.

PRICE: From £15,000 to £25,000.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (prices include VAT): Automatic gearbox £1,500; Exhaust system £250; Front damper £100; Rear damper £30; Front brake pads £30; Radiator £10; Starter motor £300; Alternator £250; Tyre £15.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1992 Jaguar XJ6 4.0 litre, with full no-claims bonus living in Winchester, £368.25 fully comprehensive, and a 55-year old woman living in the same area with full NCB, £378.35. A 22-year old male with one year's no-claims bonus living in South West London will pay £2,148 and a 22-year old female with one year's no-claims living in South West London will pay £1,925.

OVERALL: An executive car for those who like to sit behind the steering wheel rather than behind the chauffeur. All the more attractive now that used prices are falling, driven down by the number that have been part-exchanged against the newer model. Attractive prices should not tempt those who have not thought, carefully about price, insurance, maintenance and fuel bills.

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE	CHGE
Mazda 2.0 GLX 5dr	13195 13450	1.93
Toyota MR2 GT 2dr	17595 18150	3.15
Fiat Panda 1000 CLX 3dr	4295 4375	1.86
BMW 320i 4dr	17650 17995	1.95
Mercedes-Benz C180 Classic 4dr	17550 17595	0.25
Volkswagen Corrado 2.0i	15495 15750	1.64
Seat Ibiza 1.8i 3dr	22250 22250	0.00
Mazda MX6	14550 14550	1.67
Skoda Favorit LX 5dr	14450 14525	0.58
Ford Granada Ghia 5dr	13195 13295	0.75
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	13795 13895	1.77
Renault 19RN 5dr	8150 8250	1.77
Suzuki Vitara JLX 3dr	10150 10195	0.44
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLS 4dr	10695 10695	0.00
Audi 80 2.0E 4dr	12550 12650	0.79
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12095 12295	1.65
Citroen AX GTI 3dr	7325 7450	1.69
Vauxhall Calibra 2.0i 5dr	14150 14150	0.00
Toyota Corolla 1.3 GLI 5dr	10295 10295	0.00
Proton Persona 1.5 GLS 5dr	8895 8895	-1.91
Volvo 460 1.8L 4dr	8425 8575	1.78
Volkswagen Polo 1.3CL 3dr	8295 8395	1.90
Seat Ibiza 1.4 CLX 5dr	8950 7095	2.08
Hyundai X2 1.5 GSI 5dr	8475 8525	0.77
Ford Escort 1.6L 5dr	10195 10195	0.00
Vauxhall Cavalier 1.8L 5dr	9395 9150	-3.04
Vauxhall Astra 1.4L 5dr	8850 8450	-1.32
Rover 214SL 5dr	9650 9295	-4.11
Ford Fiesta 1.1LX 5dr	8950 8950	-0.81
Peugeot 405 1.6SL 4dr	8395 8550	2.05
Peugeot 306 1.4L 5dr	7750 8095	-0.81
Peugeot 306 1.4L 5dr	8275 8275	0.00
Rover 414 SL 4dr	9575 9095	-5.65
Rover Metro 1.1S 5dr	6395 6295	-1.80
Citroen Xantia 1.8L LX 5dr	10595 10595	0.00
Rover 620 SL 4dr	13150 13150	0.84
Renault Clio 1.2HL Prima 3dr	6095 6095	0.00
Volkswagen Golf GL 5dr	8925 8995	0.96
Nissan Primera 1.8LX 5dr	8275 8275	0.00
Nissan Micra 1.0L 5dr	8900 8900	-1.34
Renault Laguna 1.8RN 5dr	8900 8900	0.00
Peugeot 106 1.1XR 3dr	6595 6875	4.86
Rover 820 Si 4dr	14295 14095	-1.61
Vauxhall Omega 2.0i CD Auto 4dr	17950 17950	-0.30
Citroen ZX1 4.4 Avant 5dr	7750 7750	0.00
Toyota Camry 2.0L 5dr	1185 1185	-0.50
Honda Civic 1.6L 5dr	10095 10150	0.12
Fiat Punto 55 S 3dr	5925 5985	1.87

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecast prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Nationwide Motor Research.

ALL is gloom in the motor industry with sales of new cars on the slide.

The industry was looking to complete its revival in 1995 with sales of 2 million, the best performance since 1990. But recent hikes in interest rates have killed off those hopes with new registrations last month down almost 4 per cent.

Dark clouds have a silver lining though for buyers at least, because the harder it becomes for manufacturers and dealers to sell, the more bargains there are going to be about.

Watch out for dealers

counting furiously over the next few months and offering special deals and higher specifications at the same money. Don't be afraid to bargain for deals and trade ins — dealers probably need the business on both new and used cars at the moment.

Even if you don't buy new or under a used car buy new scheme, changes to the Sale and Supply of Goods Act mean you can complain if there is something wrong with your car. Under the Act cars must be "of satisfactory quality" when sold.

HONDA
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 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Vaughan Freeman on the fortunes of the Czech-built Tatra, once a thing of rare beauty, now an ugly beast

Blast from the past hits comeback trail

When a certain A. Hitler first saw the revolutionary streamlined Czech-built Tatra at the 1936 Berlin motor show, he declared it the ideal car to cruise his new autobahns.

Sculpted like a cross between a Dan Dare rocket and Captain Nemo's submarine, the Tatra was the first production saloon car built to take advantage of the new science of aerodynamics and so provide stability and comfort for occupants cruising at speed.

The car is a motoring milestone, the first successful effort at using a wind-tunnel to produce an aerodynamic car, and testimony that cars can not only work well but also look good — indeed look perfectly outrageous. This is one streamlined car that would never disappear into the crowd in a multi-storey car park.

With its shark-like rear fin, steeply raked and louvred back panel, and innovative engineering which includes an air-cooled V8 engine at the back (an idea said to have heavily influenced Ferdinand Porsche), the aerodynamic Tatra has a top speed in excess of 100mph, unheard of in an age when the performance of most cars expired long before reaching today's motorway limit.

Yet the Tatra reached such speeds with a 75bhp engine, around half as powerful as those of the very few other cars then able to attain 100mph plus.

The owner of one of the few examples in Britain, Dr Peter Ratcliffe, says: "Production cars capable of 100mph were a rarity. There was the Alvis and the three and a half litre SS100, but that had 125bhp. It got on by brute force with no room for occupants. The Tatra transported



Modern monster: the 3.5 litre air-cooled T613/5



Restoration period: Dr Peter Ratcliffe and his 3 litre Type 87

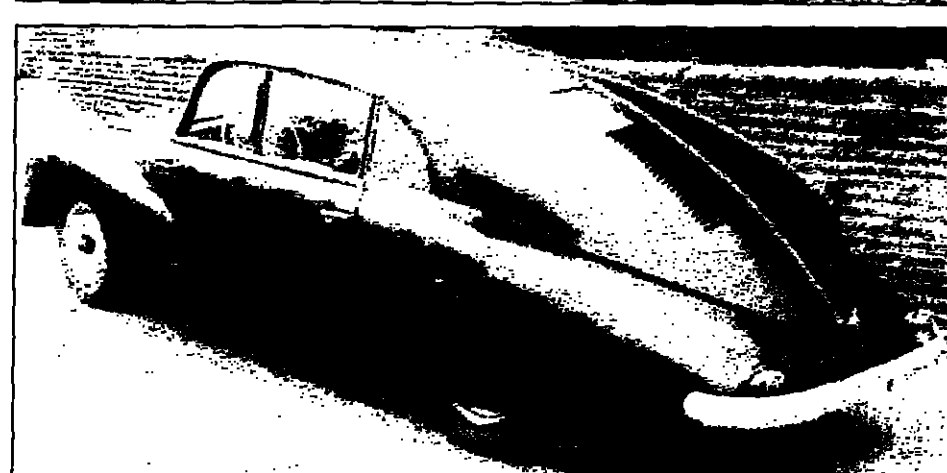


four or five people in armchair comfort, and they could talk to each other. Of course, it couldn't go round corners.

The Tatra is now being reintroduced into Britain by way of the 3.5 litre air-cooled T613/5. But the latest, blatantly box-shaped saloon models are nothing like as dramatically striking as the three-litre Type 87 that is now Dr Ratcliffe's pride and joy. At Europe's leading classic car show this month the Essen Techno-Klassica, Dr Ratcliffe

has a former marine biologist turned car restorer, expects his quintessentially British MG sports cars to have crowds flocking to his stand. But in between showing his MGs, he will be making yet more contacts in his search for Tatra information and parts. For precious few Tatra have made it outside the former Czechoslovakia.

A pilgrimage to the Tatra factory and a search through the plant's 30-year, handwritten record book, shows that Dr Ratcliffe's car rolled off the production line in June 1948 and at the time would



Glory days: the Tatra 87, a cross between a Dan Dare rocket and Captain Nemo's submarine

have cost around £670. That put it far beyond the reach of the general public — they

with anything from Rolls-Royce. The car has worn well, partly because all the important piping and cables are carried within the chassis, for greater protection, rather than being fastened alongside it on the outside.

One rather severe drawback is the almost complete lack of vision to the rear. The driver must peer into the mirror and try to see back through a number of panes of glass (which help quieten the noise from the rear-mounted engine) and a partition, to squint through the back-facing louvers.

Dr Ratcliffe says: "Of course, at the time the car was built, seeing out the back wasn't a problem. It would cruise at 85mph which meant nothing else could keep up so there was never anything be-

hind for you to look at." Dr Ratcliffe bought the car for "a few thousand pounds" after it was exported — legally — from the former Czechoslovakia. "There are various stories of people trying to get the cars out without the required paperwork and spending time in Czech prisons as a result."

Dr Ratcliffe, a doctor of biology who gave up years of research on marine life around the Humber Estuary to turn his love of cars into his job, is now restoring the Tatra at his garage in Hull: "I had been looking for a pre-war designed aerodynamic car for many years and there isn't a great deal of choice."

So far work on the Tatra has taken Dr Ratcliffe all over Western and former Eastern Europe.

Dr Peter Ratcliffe, SVW Services Ltd, Ellifoot Lane, Burswick, Hull HU12 9EF. 0964 671046, Fax 670212.

DR DASHBOARD

Our child wants to drive — help!

Q Our family is in crisis. Our 17-year-old has just learned to drive and wants to use the family car but the insurance bill is horrendous. What should we do?

A Tread carefully. Your son or daughter will now think the road is their oyster and want to dash everywhere... but your potential insurance premium tells the story of what could happen.

Q Does that mean that young drivers are a bad risk?

A You bet. The statistics are horrendous: drivers under 21 are four times more likely to make a motor insurance claim than a 40-year-old and account for a quarter of all road deaths.

Q So what is the problem?

A Usually inexperience and hot-headedness. Youngsters might think they can drive, but they are more likely to crash in the first two years after passing their test than at any other time.

Q Now we really are worried. Apart from the insurance penalty, how can we be sure that our teenager will be safe?

A Remember that driving is for life and needs continuous education. The Government this week decided to help both with insurance problems and safety by launching Pass Plus, a scheme to take youngsters on from the driving test into road skills.

Q We have already paid for lessons, doesn't this mean extra cost?

A Yes, but the reward is discounts of as much as £100 in the first year of

driving on insurance premiums. So the investment is repaid by the discount.

Q Sounds good. How do we find out the details?

A Try your insurance broker, your driving school or local test centre. The Driving Standards Agency (0115-957600) also has the register of insurance companies taking part.

Q Do the lessons take long and why are they different?

A Your son or daughter needs a minimum of six to obtain an official voucher for an insurance discount. The lessons cover motorway driving, coping with skids, braking on bad road surfaces, rural roads, night driving and bad weather. Less obvious areas are coping with fatigue, dealing with "road rage" and etiquette, as well as curbing the youthful instinct for speed which can lead to accidents.

Q It sounds comprehensive but can the course guarantee that my youngster will drive safely?

A No. The course will be a big help but human nature means that its positive effects will wear off after a while. That means the lessons learned in Pass Plus have to be hammered home periodically.

Q But that means more teaching. Won't they just get bored?

A Why not try other forms of education that can be fun. Get them to a race track to get the "speed bug" out of their system. That is the sort of lesson that makes a terrific birthday or Christmas gift or a fun weekend.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

HAS IN 0581 810000
2 PD 0581 810000
0581 810000

725 JON 0581 810000
LAK IN 0581 810000

CAR MARKS OF HULL
0581 810000

Speedy Registrations
0581 810000

CENTRAL REGISTRATIONS
0581 810000

REGISTRATION NUMBERS & CNDA MEMBERS
0581 810000

REGISTRATION TRANSFERS
0581 810000

VEE 12V 0581 810000
45 GH 0581 810000

449 JON 0581 810000

M8 NEY 0581 810000

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Tyrrell in search of the winning formula

Bill Frost sees the gods of Formula One smile again on a team in search of success

When not behind the wheel, Ukyo Katayama appears to be the mildest of men — a doting father of two who claims to enjoy nothing more than hunting down bargains at Surrey car boot sales and the odd round of golf. However, out on the circuit he becomes a ruthless warrior who neither gives nor expects any quarter from his rivals.

Katayama, star performer with the Tyrrell team, freely admits that he has sold his eternal soul to Formula One. "I am in love with speed and have been ever since I was 16 — it gets into your blood and beats in your heart," he says.

Sitting cross-legged on a workbench, the 31-year-old Japanese driver beams with pleasure as the mechanics signal that the car is ready for him. "Driving for Tyrrell is my job and my life. Sure, I have lost 10 friends in the sport during as many years, but death is a risk you have to face," Katayama says.

With a roar his car disappears up the pit lane to the circuit beyond. The mechanics, who, extraordinarily, never appear begrimed by their work, nod approvingly as he takes the first bend at speed.

"Ukyo's good, bloody good indeed," says one. "I reckon we are back to the glory days," he adds as the car flashes past the pits at about 156mph.

As even the most casual observer must be aware, Formula One's cruel and prodigious god makes and breaks teams and drivers on a whim. So it was that Tyrrell, once among the best and brightest in the sport, slowly slid from prominence to near obscurity.

However, that same god can occasionally show mercy. He is once again smiling on Tyrrell and, 12 years after their last significant Grand Prix victory, the Surrey-based team is preparing for the forthcoming season with a new sense of purpose and determination.

There is a new car, a new Yamaha three-litre engine, a new chassis and new suspension which the men who know about these matters describe as "revolutionary". It will be unveiled officially on Monday. As importantly perhaps, the sponsors whose largesse the teams rely upon are showing a great deal of interest in Tyrrell once again.

At tests in Jerez last month they came, nodded approvingly and prepared to dig deep into their wallets. They watched as the mechanics worked tirelessly and the drivers waited patiently.

The team's routine during the tests in southern Spain would shatter the health of all but the hardiest. Bleary-eyed, pale and hungry, they assemble before first light to begin their exhausting devotions.

The rules of this strict blue-overalled order demand that they sleep a few hours only each night, work an 18-hour day and genuflect constantly around the holy object they guard with their lives.

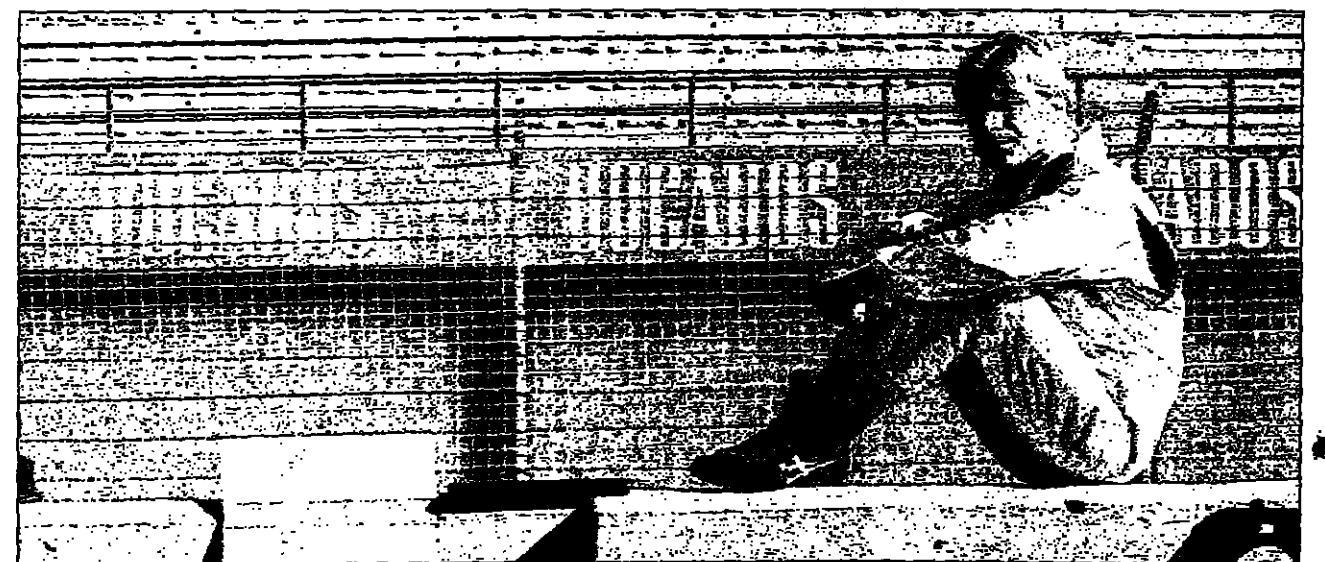
The uninitiated believe these men are part of a glamorous world where the good times roll: champagne and starlets at every pit stop. However, don't be fooled — Formula One is not about that at all.

Katayama neither smokes nor drinks and is fast asleep many hours before the first nightclub is open. "Alcohol does not agree with me. One glass of whisky and I sing loudly for a few minutes and then go into a deep sleep," he says.

Keen to display his skill, Katayama invites us to join him on a few laps of the Jerez circuit in a modest Renault family saloon. Within seconds the car is squealing around



Images of Tyrrell: top, snapshots from exhausting, 18-hour days in Jerez which shattered the health of all but the hardiest, and above, Ukyo Katayama, who freely admits "I am in love with speed"



Toughs of the track: the Tyrrell team is hoping that Katayama, left, and his fellow driver, Mika Salo, right, will bring out the best from each other during the coming season in Formula One

tight bends on two wheels.

"Not enough power," he shouts above the scream of the engine and the whirring of his passengers. "Try to imagine we are cornering at more than twice this speed," he adds as the Renault's brakes begin to smoke and the car hurtles into another evil curve.

Back in the pits two nightmare laps later, Katayama lowers himself into the cockpit of the snorting beast his mechanics have been working on since before first light. He waits for an hour while they tweak and caress the engine, apparently impervious to the blast of the exhaust.

Mike Gascoyne, Tyrrell's deputy technical director and a man with a reputation for demanding the best from driver and machine, allows himself just a hint of a smile once Katayama is back on the circuit. "His times are getting better and better," he confides after looking at a computer printout.

Gascoyne does not suffer fools gladly on the circuit, so technical questions are best left unasked by those who are unable to strip and re-assemble a Formula One engine in less than two hours. Like his fellow team members, he has given up normal conversation

for a language that baffles an outsider. Over a beer at the end of yet another long day, Gascoyne will loosen up slightly though. His eyes mist over when he speaks of the sport he loves.

"Sure, I am hooked — who wouldn't be? And no, I don't want to be behind the wheel myself. I just want to see one of Tyrrell's drivers winning this season, there is no feeling to compare with that," he says.

Several beers later, at a time when one might expect the conversation to have switched to more vulgar topics, the mechanics are still talking engines and prospects for the forthcoming season. "Yes, I suppose we are a bit like monks in blue overalls," one admits. "Once you're in Formula One there is no other subject for conversation," he adds.

Dawn the following day and the team is back at the circuit kneeling around the two cars to be tested. Abba are on the sound system competing unsuccessfully with engines which at only half throttle would waken the dead.

Steve Nielsen, assistant team manager, stands staring at the cars with an expression

which suggests he is about to have a religious experience. The 30-year-old former London policeman, has long since forgotten life on the beat.

"This is a vocation, almost everything else takes second place to the team," he says. "I

have missed celebrating seven of my eight wedding anniversaries, so as you can imagine, Formula One is not exactly my wife's favourite sport."

"I tried to convert her during a trip to the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal two

years ago. She came to the race but didn't enjoy it at all, I think she left before it was over," he adds, shaking his head in puzzlement.

At lunch Katayama looks worried. He picks at the food, even turning up his nose at the ripe Brie he normally enjoys so much.

The driver, who has been with Tyrrell since 1993, watches a young man in racing overalls who arrived at the circuit just a few hours earlier. Like gunfighters the pair size each other up while the mechanics wolf down enormous portions of chilli.

So, who is this stranger? "Mika Salo, he's a 27-year-old Finn, he's very hot and could well end up driving for us this coming season," confides a member of the team between mouthfuls.

Katayama's expression grows more preoccupied as the Finn's performance on the circuit later draws delighted grins from the men in the pits. Salo, a James Hunt look-alike, is modest about his performance. "It was the car, not really me at all," he says with a shy smile.

The arrival of the new driver reveals a gloomier side to Katayama's nature. That night he talks of mortality and

admits to anxiety on the grid. "Sometimes I get scared. I pray to God and cross myself as I wait for the start," he says, fingering a lucky charm on a chain around his neck.

He talks too of his life in the Home Counties during the months spent close to the Tyrrell factory in Ockham. "I love car boot sales, you can find such bargains. I play golf and watch my wife work in the garden — she has green fingers, is that what you say?"

Late the following morning beneath a blinding Spanish winter sun, Salo's times are better than ever. Then, over the headphones each team member wears, he is heard shouting: "It's on fire, it's on fire."

Rupert Manwaring, the team manager, frowns for a second. "Hit the extinguisher, just hit the extinguisher," he says over the intercom.

We dash across the circuit towards a plume of oily grey smoke to find Salo standing by his car. A pool of oil marks the spot where his engine blew up. "I was taking the bend at about 150mph in fifth, then there was a problem," he says with a shrug. "No, of course I wasn't frightened, just an-

noyed that there will now be a two-hour delay before I can get a new engine in and return to the circuit."

Back at the field kitchen where the food is prepared, the chefs lower the heat under the dishes they had been preparing. "Replacing an engine will delay lunch until about 2pm," says Nick Haworth of MSL Location Services, the company that has fed Tyrrell for the past two seasons.

"They're not that fussy about their food really. But woe betide you if you give them something they don't like," said Haworth.

That night in the bar after Katayama and Salo have long since gone to bed, the mechanics discuss the relative merits of the two drivers and the team's prospects for the next season. They agree the pair are ideally matched to bring the best out in each other.

"We are the team that gave Jackie Stewart three world championships and started Jody Scheckter, and Jean Alesi. These two we have now will get us back where we belong — not top four, but almost certainly No 5," says one mechanic.

Photographs by Simon Walker

Testing times: Tyrrell's new car, new engine and new hope

By Mike 150

More views from Norris on transport's 'dreadful' world

Steven Norris, the Transport Minister, is a superb car for long distances or in traffic. They are ludicrously cheap to buy second-hand. They are also the very best of British.

Do you enjoy driving?

Not as much as I used to. There are far too many cars on the road and too many traffic jams. We have to get people out of cars, buses and lorries and on to trains and trams.

What is your dream car?

The Aston Martin DB7. I think it will be a dream for a lot longer at least while I am a minister.

What is your most hated car?

The Austin Allegro. They

were always going wrong and they were unbelievably ugly.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Endlessly consuming salt and vinegar crisps. Bad for my waistline and the car is always littered with their debris.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Sheer lack of awareness of the needs of other motorists. Drivers of all ages are guilty of it. I try not to be so should you.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

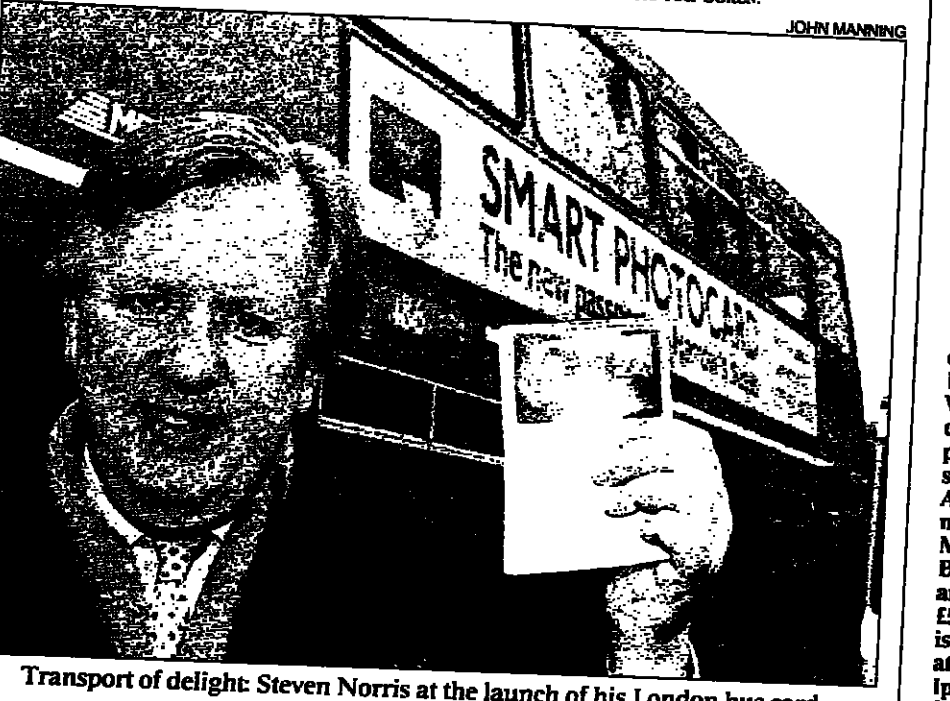
Wouldn't you like to know!

If you were appointed as Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I would not be presumptuous to assume that I would ever become the Secretary of State. The one we have is doing a perfectly good job. But, if I were to be promoted, I would make sure we explain to people more about why there are roadworks. When there are miles and miles of orange cones, but nothing seems to be happening, the Department must try to explain what is going on. I know it is frustrating to be held-up. We are trying to improve it. Which is why we have set up the cones helpline. Call it.

What is your favourite/most hated car advertisement?

I can't think of one. I never get a chance to see the television. I'm too busy with the red boxes.



Transport of delight: Steven Norris at the launch of his London bus card

1961 Morris for sale — one owner, 343 miles

BY KEVIN EASON

EVEN Arthur Daley would barely be able to believe his eyes if he could see the little bargain coming up at auction soon.

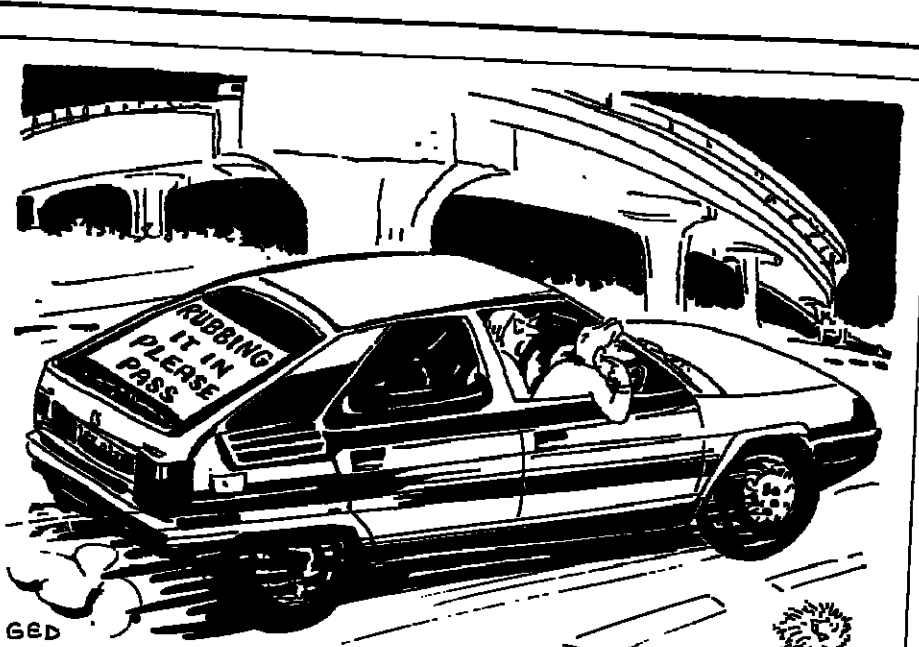
For this runabout has averaged only ten miles a year. The Morris Minor 1000 going on sale at ADT's classic and historic sale at Blackbushe, Camberley, Surrey, on February 20 really did have just one owner and the odometer after 34 years has rolled around to only 343 miles.

The 1961 Minor comes from a collection of 17 cars which were owned by Stanley Cohen, a North London businessman who has been so enthusiastic about collecting classics, he has ended up with too many.

His collection was dotted around the country, with cars parked in the garages of friends and in specialist centres. He decided to sell some to make room and the names read like a roll-call of British motoring history with a Hummer, Reliant, Morris, Austin, Rover and Sunbeam on sale.

Every vehicle in the collection seems barely to have turned a wheel in anger, like the Austin A35 delivery van which between being sold in 1961 and 1988 had managed to cover only 16 miles.

But the star of the show could be the little Morris 1000, a model so disliked by William Morris that he described it as looking like "a poached egg" when it was shown for the first time by Sir Alec Issigonis. Issigonis had no need to worry because the Minor went on to be the first British car to sell a million and this 1961 relic could bring £5,000. The Cohen collection is among more than 100 cars at the auction which starts at 1pm. Further information from Malcolm Welford on 0252 878555.



The love bug: a route to a richer marriage

We all know that a car is more, more, more, than just four wheels to go from A to B. Considerable attention has been paid to the car as status symbol, an opportunity for hanky-panky, and even as Freudian substitute for intimate anatomy.

Yet no research has been done on the car as marriage enrichment unit, a kind of caring and sharing wagon. This is what I use it for. All women know the awful moment when Something Will Have To Be Discussed. Men know it too. They can sense it coming and usually take evasive action; men loathe talking things out.

My husband uses jokes, because if he can make me laugh, I may forget to raise the subject. Other evasive tactics include bringing back awful people en masse from the pub in order to block a serious discussion, working late, or flying off on a business trip. I have my rule about raising Things Which Must Be Said. Tricky subjects must not be discussed if either of us is drunk, tired, genuinely worried, ill or distracted by other matters. That way lies

A domestic dispute to settle? Corner him in the car and you're en route to a happy ending, says

Celia Haddon

the all-out marital row. It is difficult to find a time when both partners are sober, unknackered — except, that is, driving time. And every week we have three hours driving to and from our country cottage.

Ideally, I raise the subject as we pass the M25 junction and the M40 unfolds ahead. "Darling," I say, "there is something we have to talk about." This, as most wives know, can be anything from the way he fails to put the milk back into the fridge to the general state of our marriage. I use my calm, caring voice, as advised by my therapist; the same calm, caring voice that seems to put him in a mood of excitable irritation and hatred.

But he can't escape. He cannot do a bunk to the pub or disappear into the lavatory. He cannot even stop on the hard shoulder, since the police would never accept that it was a psychological emergency for him.

I have him, for the next 25 minutes until we turn on to the Oxford by-pass. It appears to work. He listens but sometimes I wonder if he hears. He often seems to spray water on the windscreen, turn up the heater or demist the back window at these moments. Are these merely displacement activities showing his frustrated desire to escape, or is he managing to tune me out with them?

Lately, I have had to modify the therapeutic discussion technique. A Citroen BX cruising at 70mph is not the best place to discuss subjects likely to send one or both of us berserk. A single swerve of manic anger and we could both be squashed food for motorway magpies. So for incendiary subjects I am considering moving the marital therapy space to the bathroom. He prone in the tub, will have to listen.

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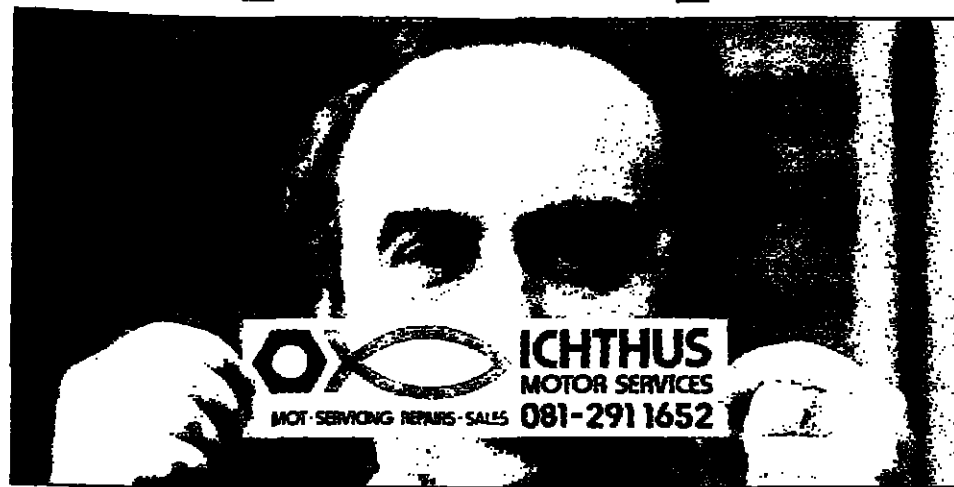
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Praise the Lord and pass the pliers



The notice on the office door reads "Be an Angel - Don't smoke". There are no pin-ups. Where am I, a garage or a monastery? A bit of both. It's a garage: a Christian garage.

Ichthus Motor Services is near Forest Hill, off London's South Circular. That's services as in vehicle, but in his private capacity proprietor Len Carne is also interested in the religious variety. In addition, he runs a charity which hires out cars cheaply to missionaries home on leave.

Here begins the interview with Len, a 45-year-old evangelical Christian with a doctorate in biochemistry. "I'm not saying for one moment that we're the only honest garage." But his last words to me are: "We haven't found anywhere in the world, let alone in the country, where they are doing this."

In between, he explains what "this" is and its genesis. His career began, he says, in a pathology lab, which led to a degree then a Ph D. Medical research seems a perfectly adequate way of doing God's work but Len's feelings were different: "I ended up doing some very academic research but I wanted contact with people. I was 30: I'd recently become a Christian, my contract was coming to an end and it was the right time to make a change."

It was in 1979 that he became a born-again garage mechanic. "I'd had my head under a bonnet since I was 10.

No pin-ups, no roll-ups — and no rip-offs.

Jonathan Sale visits a garage with a mission

From the age of 17, my friends and relations brought their cars to me to service. Why? First, I was cheaper; second, they could trust me. If I said, "I've changed the brake-pads," they knew I'd changed the brake-pads. I feel I'm doing what God wants."

The name he chose to trade under reflected his particular brand of Christianity. Ichthus, Greek for fish, has been a Christian symbol since the days of the early church. Today it is associated with evangelical Christianity: although he has no connection with the nearby Ichthus Christian Fellowship — apart from having some of its members as customers — they are both involved in announcing the Good News. Len, who attends a Baptist church, says: "There is a thread of people that truly love the Lord, throughout all the denominations."

On the phone to the uninitiated, it can be a chore to spell out the Ichthus bit of his company name but it provides an opportunity to explain the derivation and possibly spread the Word.

None of this seems to have hindered his business, even in the early days. "It was just me and a van," he recalls. "Then I got to know a retired chappie who still did a bit of bodywork: he worked out of the back of a church." It was at least better than the back of a lorry, but they moved into the present premises three years later. His colleague has since retired for good but his daughter now works in the office. "There are about six of us now," says Len.

But are they Christians? "About half and half. And Les is on the fence." The staff are hired for their skill, not their hymn-singing; yet they say the place has a different atmosphere to any other garage in which they've worked. No saucy calendars, so often the hallmark of the motor trade; and there is also the charity side.

"This Christian chappie, a customer, phoned up out of the blue and said, 'I feel I should give you this car.' I said, 'Fair enough,' and we had the idea of lending it to missionaries home on leave. We got given another and another. We've got 115 now."

"Some are just good for spares and others are quite a sacrifice; people are led by the Lord to give cars they could sell for thousands. One chap wanted to sell his car for £1. He was too embarrassed to tell his mates he'd given it away."

To look after this philanthropic fleet, Len set up Ichthus Motor Mission, a



God's handyman: Len Carne with company logo and a car sent for Christian healing

registered charity whose logo is a fish with a nut in its tail. It breaks even by charging 8p per mile, plus £40 per month. "A blessing," declares a motorised missionary from Mexico. Amen, say evangelists from Thailand, Zimbabwe, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Do they have to be Baptists?

"No, anybody's missionaries — if they are of an evangelical bent. We haven't found ourselves refusing anybody." Praise the Lord and pass the ignition key. The Bishop of Woolwich and his wife are among the garage's customers — but so are local Muslims. "I am a Christian running a garage and seeking to do

God's work," says Len. Reluctantly, he accepts that the Christian tag can be a handicap: "Some people expect you will charge hardly anything and their car will never go wrong." Honestly, what do they want — miracles? Ichthus Motor Services is at 41 Grove Close, London SE23 1AS (081-291 1652).

Black box may end crash rows

Kevin Eason on a high-tech part that can resolve insurance disputes

Millions of drivers will soon be monitored by aircraft-style black box recorders to tell insurers who was at fault in a crash.

The revolution in micro-electronics means cars can be fitted with computers which record every time the driver brakes, how quickly the car is being driven and whether it had to be stopped in an emergency.

Honda is already fitting its 1995 Civic models, made at Swindon, Wiltshire, with a small black box, pioneering the way for the rest of the industry.

The recorder is linked to the car's airbag system. After a crash, a microchip will have the sequence of events immediately before impact indelibly printed on it.

The information is not yet available to insurers but by examining the data, Honda's engineers say they can study the performance of the car in a crash and make improvements in the next generation of models.

The black boxes work exactly like those in aircraft, measuring speed and telemetry so that if the vehicle was making sharp movements, engineers could decide whether it was breaking speed limits or was out of control.

Although the biggest benefit could be in helping determine who was at fault in a crash, the box could also revolutionise Britain's huge fleet industry. Companies can for the first time measure accurately whether their drivers are wasting fuel and adding to maintenance costs by driving too quickly and recklessly.

Fleet Support Group (FSG), based in Chippenham, Wiltshire, claims its box could cut the running costs of a company car by as much as half, simply by identifying bad drivers.

Geoffrey Bray, FSG's direc-

tor, says the black box could be used to educate drivers, and make them safer. "This is not the use of Big Brother alongside the driver, but tests have clearly shown that improved driver care cuts maintenance, fuel and accident costs."

A BMW 316i test car over 60,000 miles or three years would have a projected average running cost of £2,096, or 3.5p a mile. A good driver would shave costs to £1,522 — but a bad one could run up a bill of £3,699, because his car would use more fuel, need more servicing and more vital parts, such as frequent brake replacement.

FSG says its system, which starts at £300, could record simple data such as acceleration, harsh braking, over-revving, speeding and cornering. Even the number of times the brake lights come on could be counted.

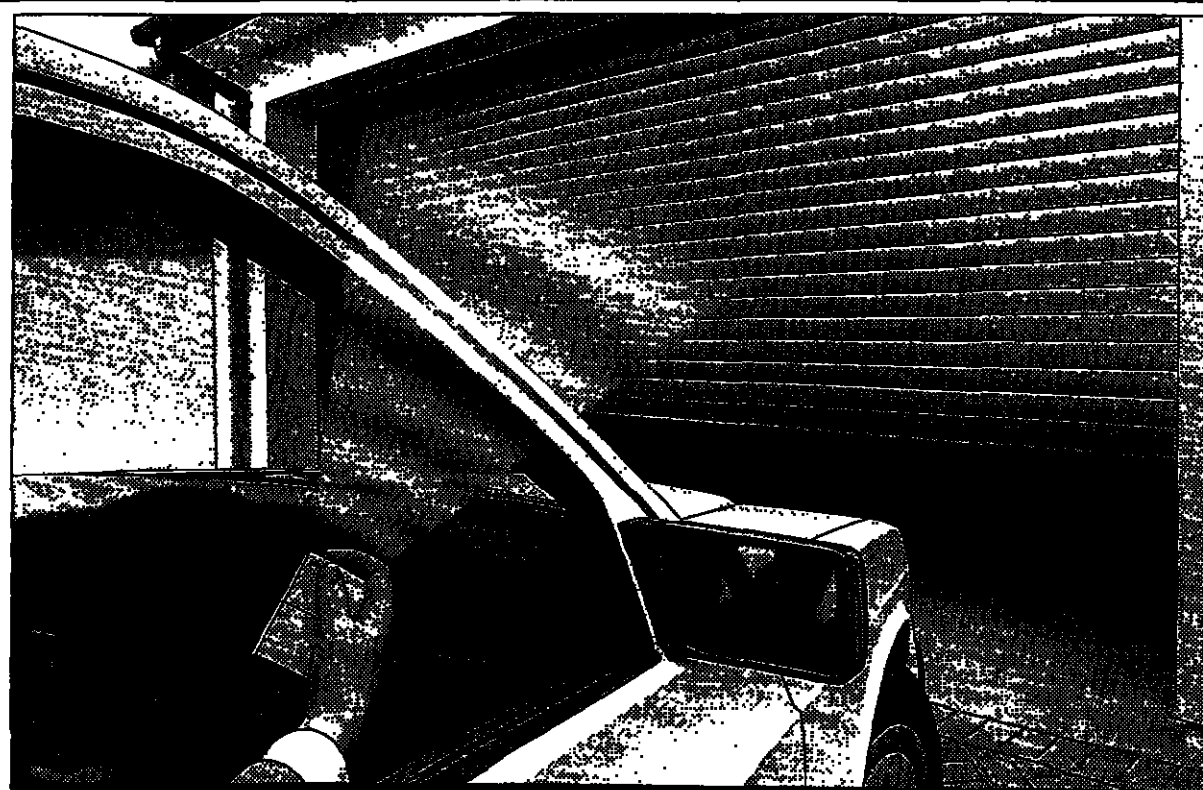
The information between the best and worst drivers could be compared and drawn into a league table, so that the costlier drivers were aware they were burning five-pound notes every time they slammed their foot down on the throttle or brake.

The Environmental Transport Association has launched a campaign to have the boxes fitted as standard to all cars as a way of modifying driver behaviour.

Andrew Davis, the association's director, said: "Most crashes are caused by driver error, and the technology now exists to stop people getting away with dangerous driving."

The ETA might not have long to wait. Following Honda are companies such as Toyota in Britain and General Motors, which owns Vauxhall and is already fitting black boxes to its Saturn small car range in the USA.

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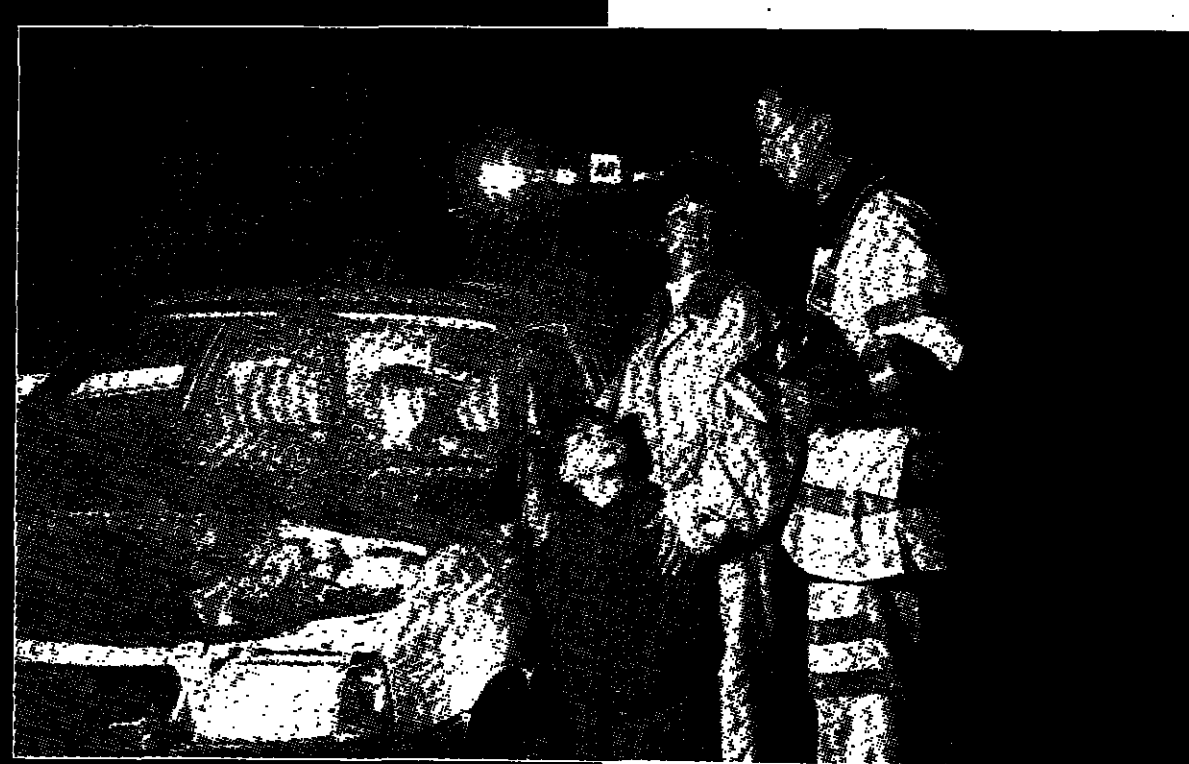
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